Denver Rocky Mountain News

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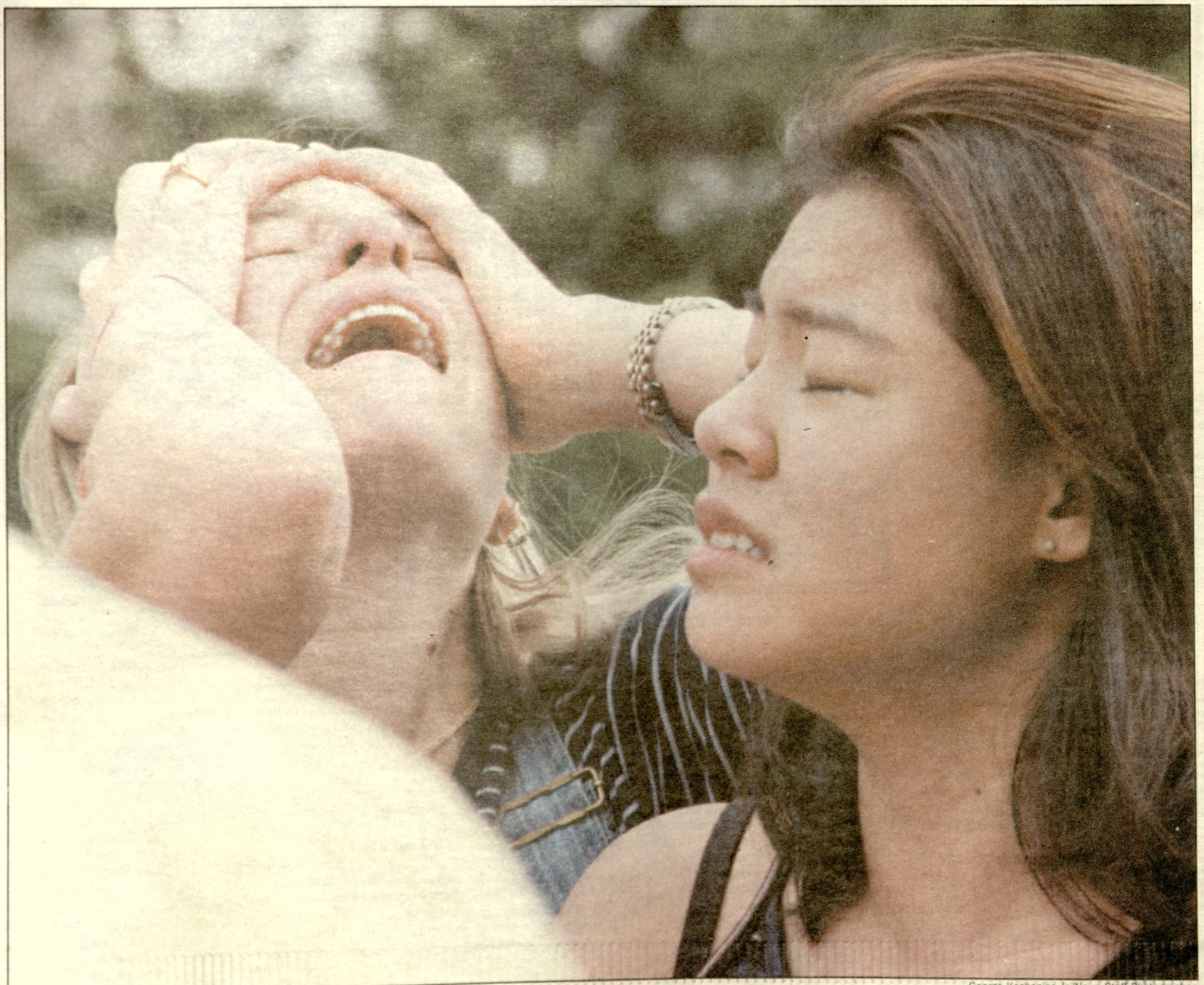
April 21, 1999 • InsideDenver.com WEDNESDAY 25¢ (May vary outside metro Denver)

Heartbreak

2 student gunmen terrorize Columbine High in deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. 2A



George Kochaniec Jr./News Staff Photographer

Columbine students are overwhelmed by emotion during Tuesday's rampage. As many as 25 people, including the gunmen, were killed, and 21 were wounded.

FROM THE EDITOR

To provide complete coverage of the tragedy at Columbine High, several features have been moved from their regular positions.

Rocky Talk columnists appear on 23A.

— *John Temple*

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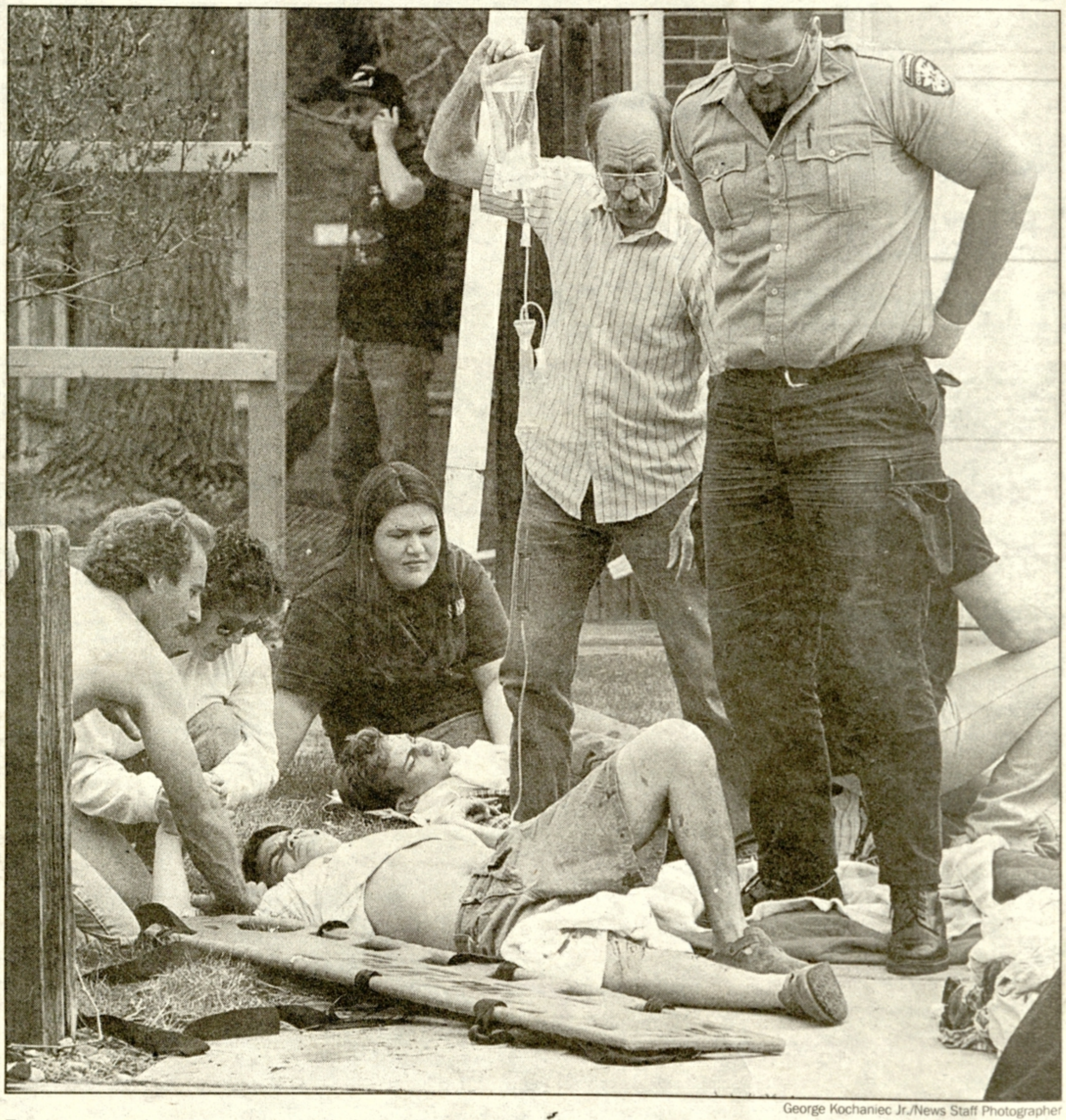
Notice to Readers

Sunday/Holidays subscriptions include the following bonus issues: April 24

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Death goes to school with cold, evil laughter



George Kochaniec Jr./News Staff Photographer

Emergency workers treat the wounded outside Columbine High School Tuesday after gunmen fired on those inside.

By Mike Anton
News Staff Writer

The two came to school Tuesday in fatigues, pipe bombs strapped to their chests and shotguns and high-powered pistols under long black coats.

About 11:30 a.m. they went to work wearing masks, shredding their classmates with bullets and bombs, laughing as they went, turning Columbine High School, home of the Rebels, into the scene of the deadliest school shooting in American history.

As many as 25 died — maybe even more, police said. Twenty-one were wounded, half of them critically. They were shot in the chest and back, head and legs. One girl had nine shrapnel wounds.

"We're talking a war zone," said Steven Greene, whose son, a senior, escaped unharmed.

One teacher was among the dead.

The carnage ended when the gunmen — Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, both juniors at Columbine — shot themselves while they were in the school library. A SWAT team found the bodies shortly before 4 p.m.

But the agony was just beginning.

Emergency room doctors struggled to save the wounded while coroners worked to identify the dead.

Parents waited for word of their children.

Police searched the school late into the night, disarming more than a dozen bombs inside and out, stepping over the bodies where they had fallen.

COVERAGE: *Pages 2-23A.*
MORE ONLINE: *Breaking coverage and a public forum to discuss the tragedy, http://InsideDenver.com*

Shortly before 11 Tuesday night, another pipe bomb exploded outside the school. None of the police still at the school was hurt.

Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone said that defusing additional bombs in the school could further delay removal and identification of the bodies.

Police seized explosives and a computer at one gunman's home. The explosion of two backpacks a mile from the school 40 minutes before the shooting may have been linked to the tragedy.

There were two arrests: friends of Klebold and Harris who authorities said didn't take part in the shooting.

Authorities said the gunmen were members of the Trench Coat Mafia, a loose-knit group of current and former Columbine students fascinated with computers and drama. The two suspected gunmen attended Saturday's after-prom party at the school.

Several students said the gunmen targeted minorities.

"He said, 'We are going to shoot black people,'" one girl quoted a gunman as saying as she begged him not to kill her. "Then he shot a black guy sitting next to me. He shot the black kid in the head."

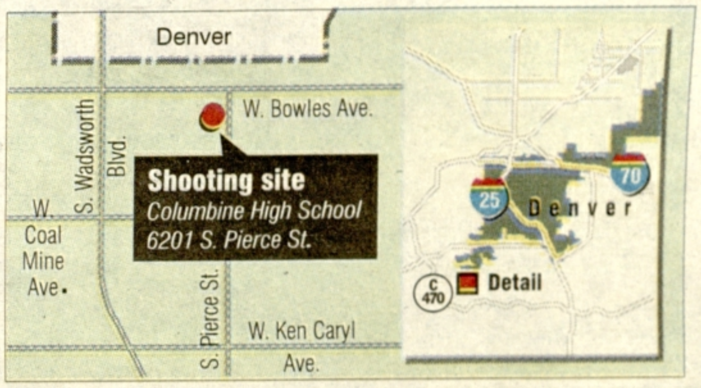
Other students said the gunmen

See **SCHOOL** on **55A**

'A Colorado tragedy'

Two masked gunmen Tuesday turned Columbine High School in Jefferson County into the scene of the deadliest school shooting in American history. As many as 25 died and another 21 were wounded.

President Bill Clinton addressed the nation, expressing his sadness, and after meeting with grieving parents, Gov. Bill Owens described the attack as "a Colorado tragedy."


Denver
W. Bowles Ave.
S. Wadsworth Blvd.
W. Coal Mine Ave.
Shooting site
Columbine High School
6201 S. Pierce St.
S. Pierce St.
W. Ken Caryl Ave.
25
70
Denver
C 470
Detail

WHAT HAPPENED

Tuesday, 11 a.m.: Columbine High School students head to the cafeteria for lunch, hit the books in the library or go to their classrooms.

11:15 a.m.: Suspects explode a bomb on Wadsworth Boulevard west of the school.

11:30 a.m.: Two masked gunmen wearing black trench coats over camouflage clothing walk toward the student entrance of the school, firing as they go. They are armed with shotguns, a semi- or fully automatic pistol and pipe bombs.

Once inside the school, they spray bullets in the hallway full of students, some slugs ricocheting off lockers.

They enter the cafeteria on the first floor and begin shooting students inside.

They leave the cafeteria and walk up the stairs toward the school library, shooting and setting off explosions.

They enter the library and begin shooting more students huddling under tables.

Students hide in closets, bathrooms, under tables and chairs. Others flee the building as the fire alarms go off.

11:35 a.m.: The first police arrive at the school and exchange gunfire with the two masked assailants. They find explosive devices around the school. For the next hour, police hear explosions and gunshots coming from inside the school.

A triage unit is set up across the street from the school, and ambulances begin taking wounded students to hospitals.

1:30 p.m.: SWAT teams begin a room-by-room search of the high school. Parents begin gathering at Leawood Elementary School and Columbine Public Library.

1:30 p.m.: People in the choir room run out of the school under police protection. Over the next two hours police and FBI rescue students and teachers hiding inside the school, including removing a wounded student from a second-story window.

An armored personnel carrier from the National Guard and two fire trucks are placed in front of the school entrance to act as a barrier for escaping students.

1:45 p.m.: Police take into custody three ex-students walking across Clement Park toward the school. The three are friends of the two suspects.

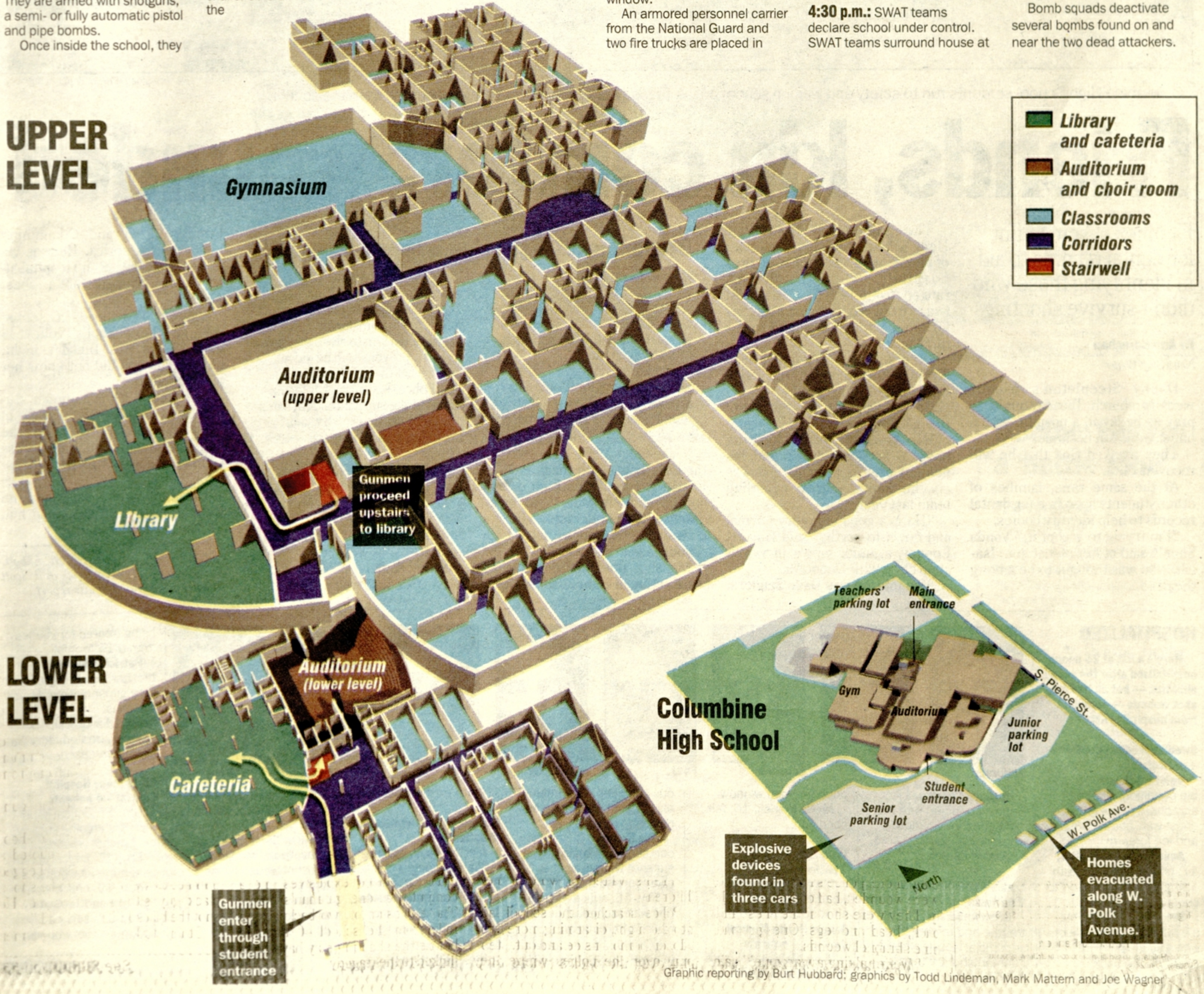
4 p.m.: Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone announces the two suspects have been found in the library dead of self-inflicted wounds.

4:30 p.m.: SWAT teams declare school under control. SWAT teams surround house at 9351 Cougar Road, the home of one of the suspects.

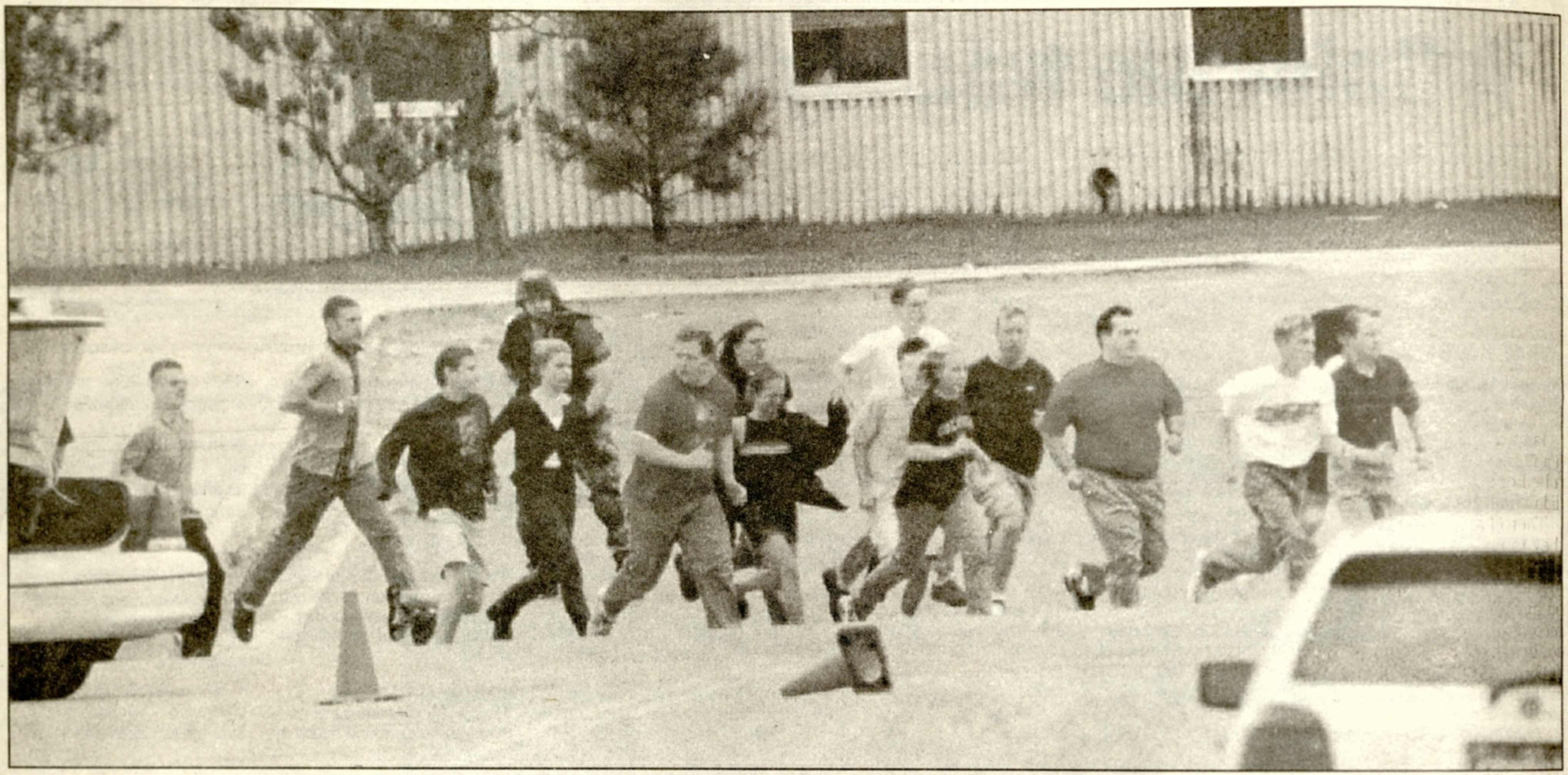
6:15 p.m.: Police seal off the high school's southwest parking lot after finding explosive devices in three cars. Residents of 14 nearby homes are evacuated.

Search warrants are executed at homes near the school, and explosives are found at the home of one of the suspects.

Bomb squads deactivate several bombs found on and near the two dead attackers.


UPPER LEVEL
Gymnasium
Auditorium (upper level)
Library
Gunmen proceed upstairs to library
LOWER LEVEL
Auditorium (lower level)
Cafeteria
Gunmen enter through student entrance
🟩 Library and cafeteria
🟫 Auditorium and choir room
🟦 Classrooms
▇ Corridors
🟥 Stairwell
Columbine High School
Teachers' parking lot
Main entrance
Gym
Auditorium
S. Pierce St.
Junior parking lot
Student entrance
Senior parking lot
W. Polk Ave.
Explosive devices found in three cars
North
Homes evacuated along W. Polk Avenue.

Graphic reporting by Burt Hubbard; graphics by Todd Lindeman, Mark Mattern and Joe Wagner



Hal Stoelzle/News Staff Photographer

Columbine High School students run to safety and waiting school buses Tuesday afternoon after being evacuated from the school.

Friends, kin comfort wounded

Families of some hunt for dental records to aid in identifying those who didn't survive shootings

By Ann Carnahan

News Staff Writer

Danny Steepleton's friends went to church Tuesday night to pray as he lay in a hospital with a bullet wound in his knee.

They thanked God that he will recover.

At the same time, families of other students searched for dental records to help identify bodies.

"I'm trying to accept it," Vonda Shoels said of her oldest son, Isaiah, who was thought to be among the dead.

The gunmen at Columbine High School wounded a number of people who were taken to area hospitals. Their conditions ranged from fair to critical. At least two were taken to hospitals for other problems related to the rampage.

Others were presumed dead Tuesday, their bodies still inside Columbine High School.

Corey Depooter, 17, was one of the missing.

His parents were checking hospital lists but didn't find his name. Corey is a junior and was on the junior varsity wrestling team last year.

"He is a good kid, very normal and down-to-earth," said Garrett Looney, a junior who's in woodshop class with Depooter.

Also injured was Dave Sanders, the girls' basketball coach.

"He is the classic high school coach," said Arvada West girls' coach Gary Anderson. "Just a class act, the consumate high school coach."

Many of the injured and dead were active in clubs at the school.

Anne Marie Hochhalter, 17, was in the marching band last year and the wind symphony. She was in critical condition at Swedish Hospital with a chest wound.

Brian Anderson, a junior, has been in a leadership club called Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. He was released from Lutheran Hospital after being treated for a chest wound.

Lauren Townsend, a senior, was on the school's volleyball team. As of late Tuesday night, her parents still did not know her whereabouts.

Steepleton, 17, is an honor student who just attended the prom over the weekend. He is on the wrestling team and runs cross country. He was at Littleton Hospital Tuesday.

His grandparents said he wants to be a doctor and described him as "the perfect grandchild."

News staff writers Karen Abbott, Sue Lindsay, Rebecca Jones and Scott Stocker contributed to this report.

Denver closes high schools 'as a precaution'

News Staff

Denver Public Schools will close all high schools today as a precaution, district spokesman Mark Stevens said.

In addition, Henry Middle School and Traylor Elementary also will close. They and Denver's John F. Kennedy High School are in Denver's Bear Valley, which is near Lakewood.

Stevens said police gave superintendent Irv Moskowitz information that led him to close the high schools. Stevens said he did not know what the information was.

"(Police) had enough information that the superintendent said, 'Let's be cautious,' " he said.

HOSPITALIZED

Here's a list of 23 people hospitalized after the school shooting — not all had gunshot wounds — compiled from hospital officials:

Swedish Medical Center
4 patients

Valerie Schnurr, 18, stable condition. She had shrapnel injuries to her chest wall, abdominal wall and left forearm.

Anne Marie Hochhalter, 17, critical condition with a single gunshot wound to chest.

Sean Graves, 15½, stable but guarded condition with a single gunshot wound to the back.

Anderson

Doyle

Eubanks

Foss

Hochhalter

Kyler

Schnurr

Steepleton

Richard Casaldo, 17, critical condition with multiple gunshot wounds to chest, back and arm area, intensive care unit.

Lutheran Medical Center
2 patients

Brian Anderson, 17, treated and released for superficial wound when a gunman shot through a double-paned window.

Nicole Nowlen, 16, fair condition.

University Hospital
1 patient

Male, 16, gunshot wounds to chest.

Denver Health Medical Center – 4 patients

Mark Kintgen, 17, serious condition with multiple gunshot wounds to his neck and head.

Lisa Kreutz, 18, serious condition with multiple gunshot wounds to the shoulder and forearm.

Boy, 16, critical condition with multiple gunshot wounds to his body.

Woman, 18, fair condition with gunshot wounds to lower extremities.

Littleton Adventist Hospital
8 patients

Jennifer Doyle, age unavailable, stable with shotgun pellets in her hand.

Stephen Austin Eubanks, 17, treated for gunshot wounds to the head and knee and released.

Stephanie Munson, 17, released after being treated for a gunshot wound to the ankle.

Danny Steepleton, age unavailable, stable with a gunshot wound to the knee.

Adam Kyler, 16, released after being treated for abdominal pain.

Nicholas Foss, age unavailable, released after being treated for injuries from a 15-foot fall.

Patricia Nielson, 35, teacher, under evaluation for a gunshot wound to the chest

Joyce Jankowski, 45, teacher, treated for anxiety and released.

St. Anthony Hospital Central – 4 patients

Girl, 17, critical condition, undergoing surgery for gunshot wounds.

Boy, 15, critical condition, gunshot wounds.

Boy, 19, critical condition, gunshot wounds.

Boy, 17, serious condition, gunshots wounds.

— By staff and wire

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Parents wait, cry and hope

Joyful reunion for most, but for others, despair

By Karen Abbott

News Staff Writer

Vonda Shoels was at Leawood Elementary School by noon to await news of her 18-year-old son, Isaiah, a senior due to graduate next month.

The news was bad.

Isaiah, who always phoned home, never did. Family members telephoned hospitals, but they didn't find him.

Then classmates told his mother they thought Isaiah had been shot in the head.

And by 8 p.m., Vonda Shoels was on her way to get her son's dental records — and his telephone book, so she could call his friends.

Dozens of other parents waiting at Leawood heard the grim instructions police officers delivered about 7:30 p.m.: Go home. Get your children's dental records, their fingerprints, anything else that could help identify them.

But the police said they couldn't yet reach all the bodies inside Columbine High School because there were pipe bombs everywhere.

Shoels thought Isaiah might have been a target because he is black.

Her two other children who attend Columbine, Michelle and Anthony, both 15, were safe.

Waiting with her was Isaiah's cousin, Deesha Mesa, 24. "We don't want to give up hope yet," she said.

"If anybody is alive in there, I'm thinking it's him," Mesa said. "I'm thinking it's Isaiah because he's so smart, and he always gets out of things."

Earlier in the afternoon, outside the nearby Columbine Public Library, Dan Ortega couldn't get to the school. He couldn't get through the police barricades to his house. He couldn't find his wife.

And he couldn't find his 17-year-old daughter, Amy Lynn.

"I don't know where she is," Ortega said as he stood clutching a cell phone. His hands shook.

Hour upon hour, scores of frightened parents crowded inside and outside the library — some trembling and tearful, others stone-faced and still. Many hugged friends and sobbed, or clutched the hands of strangers.

"They said a physics teacher was shot, and I think he would have been there," one weeping mother said. "His last class was physics."

The library soon became a command center, with a sign on its glass front door barring everyone but Columbine parents and students. Ambulances, their sirens blaring, passed on West Bowles Avenue. Helicopters hovered noisily overhead.

From across the green expanse of Clement Park, Ortega couldn't quite see the school where his daughter is a junior. His cell phone was useless; all systems were busy as terrified families and children fought to find each other.

Inside the library, another parent had a panic attack. A library staffer called for someone to administer oxygen.

A wide-eyed woman, barely able to speak, asked counselors at the library door to help her find her son. She told them his name. She told them again. Again. And again.

A woman talking into a cell phone burst into loud sobs. "Oh, God, you're safe!" she screamed, then turned to a friend: "He's OK!" But it was a long time before she stopped sobbing.

John Kent held his cell phone high in the air on the library sidewalk. "Anybody else need to call their parents?" Kent's granddaughter, 15-year-old Mirenda Phaff, was safe inside the library.

Parents traded news and quizzed their children's classmates, then passed along what they'd heard: Jamie's friend had seen him running away from the school, alive. Friends watching television at home had spotted Amber on the screen, alive.

Officials made lists of students safe at the library.

Counselors and ministers approached the parents gently. But one of them said many parents were too frantic with terror to hold still for help.

Erik Buckner's mother, who works at a bank near the high school, went home from work in tears when she heard about the shooting, and her older son told her to stay there. Chris Buckner, 20, a Columbine graduate two years ago, stood at the library door to wait for word of his younger brother.

"I'm shaken," he said. "I'm shaken." He blinked away tears.

At 2:35 p.m. the Rev. Steve Benson of nearby Columbine United Church loudly read a list of kids known to be safe at various locations. Erik Buckner was among them.

Many others weren't.

Benson told the parents not to worry, that the lists weren't complete.

"There are kids literally all over the suburbs," he said.

Leawood and library staffers faxed each other lists of the students they had. Desperate parents thronged to study the lists.

Vickie Romero, whose three nephews attend Columbine, was stopped by police blocks away. She ran across Raccoon Creek Golf Course and climbed through a hole in a metal fence to reach the school anyway.

"I just want to know that my nephews are OK," she said.

Kristie Vest waited for news of her daughter, Kami, and her niece, Kendra Curry. She knew they were among about 30 students trapped in the choir room.

The students were huddling in a closet, crouching behind the risers and hiding behind the hanging choir robes. They had called 911.

But Kristie Vest found little comfort in that. "The suspect is still in there," she said.

About 90 minutes later, she wept as she cradled one girl in each arm, and they boarded a bus waiting to take them away.

In the circular drive in front of the library, cars began to pull up and stop soon after 3:30 p.m., delivering students who had just been released from the school.

A gray-haired man drove up in a small car stuffed with six girls. Parents and classmates crowded around to peer inside: Who was there? Who was safe? The girls climbed out of the car with frightened eyes.

Waiting arms reached for them, and they fell into hugs.

News staff writers Charley Able, Gary Massaro, Hector Gutierrez and Kevin Vaughan contributed to this report.

Ken Papaleo/News Staff Photographer

A mother and daughter weep as they are reunited at Leawood Elementary School, where many parents were instructed to wait Tuesday as the crisis unfolded at nearby Columbine High School.

Doctor: Library a 'battle zone'

By Berny Morson

News Staff Writer

Dr. Chris Colwell used one word to describe what he saw in the Columbine High School library.

"Horror."

Colwell, an emergency physician at Denver Health Medical Center, pronounced 15 dead at Columbine, including 12 in the library.

"I don't know how you describe the worst thing you've ever experienced in your life," he said.

"I guess a battle zone would be the closest thing to describe what the library was. I guess horror would be the best way to describe it."

Bodies were spread throughout the library, he said.

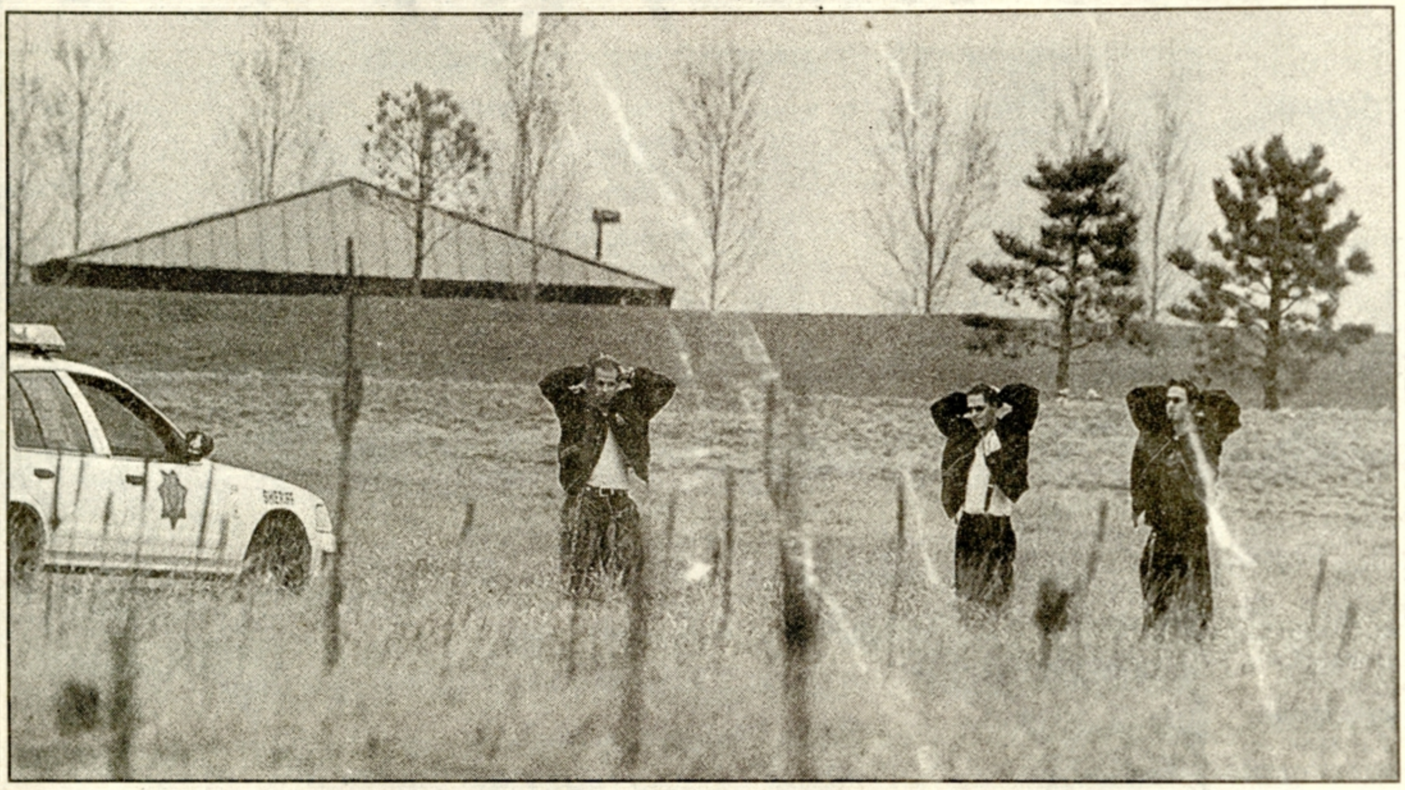
Colwell pronounced the two shooters dead. He said they died of bullet wounds in the head.

Quiet loners worried other students

Trench Coat Mafia spoke about violence, carried reputation for being outsiders

By Tina Griego, Ann Imse and Lynn Bartels

News Staff Writers



Three unidentified men are taken into custody by police Tuesday near the scene of the Columbine High School shooting.

George Kochaniec Jr. / News Staff Photographer

Around Columbine High School, they were known as the dorks, the loners, the outcasts.

They called themselves the Trench Coat Mafia. "Reb" and "Vodka" and "Grunt," smart kids with a taste for black dusters and heavy boots and makeup.

On Tuesday, police said two members of the Trench Coat Mafia — Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold — shot dozens of people at their school and then shot themselves.

They were "normal kids who did normal stuff," said their friends. "Normal kids" who talked about shooting and bombing, said kids they passed in the hall.

They also were kids who spoke German to each other, listened to German techno music and were fans of Adolf Hitler, said Matthew Good, a neighbor of Harris'. Tuesday was Hitler's birthday.

Friends and classmates gave conflicting descriptions of the pair. Some described quiet, bright eccentrics. Others called them silent, threatening figures clothed in black.

They were 10 kids in a clique who built Web sites for fun. Made movies about how to cope with being a teen-ager. Drank cream soda. Practiced swordplay with bamboo sticks.

They grin from the back pages of the school yearbook. Kids in glasses and baseball caps. "Trench Coat Mafia . . . Who says we're different? Insanity's healthy" read the caption next to their photo.

Junior Pauline Colby, who was a group member until last year, said her former friends had started to scare her.

THE SUSPECTS

Dylan Klebold

Eric Harris

"I knew they were capable of violence, but I just didn't know they would do it," she said. "They were just very angry, but they didn't know how to release their anger. They were angry about people not accepting them and no one knowing how smart they were."

Derek Oulton, a senior at Columbine, remembered hearing group members talk about plans for violence. "I heard Eric Harris talk about bombs. There was a bomb threat last year," he said. "They just have a hatred for everyone."

Good said he heard a lot of noise coming from the Harris garage over the weekend. "It sounded like power tools and breaking glass," Good said.

Both youths had two parents at home and came from families neighbors described as very fine people.

Senior Alisa Owen called the group weird people with a sick sense of humor. "They were joking around saying, 'We are going to shoot you,' " she said.

No one took them seriously, said both Owen and Greg Barnes, a Columbine basketball player.

"That was a mistake," Barnes said.

"They would just sit in the back of the room," he said. "They didn't get involved. They wrote poetry, but their poems were weird.

"They seem to have their own way of doing things. People made fun of them and when I heard someone say they wanted revenge, I said, 'That makes sense.' I just stayed away from them."

Their friends say the Trench Coat Mafia was born about three years ago. No special thought went into the name, said Thaddeus Boles, a member of the group.

"We all just started wearing them to keep warm," he said. "We all pretty much got them. It was something we liked."

The group considered themselves "outside the norm," said Mark Heckler, father of group member [illegible] Heckler. His son, he said, was upset.

"We know these kids," Mark Heckler said. Nothing, he said, indicated that Harris or Klebold were about to explode.

Boles called Harris and Klebold two of his best friends. He said he saw them both Saturday night at the school's elaborate "New York, New York" after-prom party.

"They were both in pretty good spirits, going with the flow," he said.

They didn't seem depressed, he said.

"All of us pretty much got along with everybody," he said.

And they were very smart, said choir teacher Lee Andres, who remembers the 6-foot-4, blond Klebold the best. Klebold, who always wore a black baseball cap backward, ran the sound for one of last year's school musicals.

"They were extremely bright, but not good students," Andres said. "I know that two of them flunked out of school just this year, and not for the lack of brains. They disliked authority. They did not like to be told what to do."

Dominic Duran shared a creative writing class with Harris.

Last Friday, Harris wrote one of the best stories in the class and read it aloud. "It was about how his brother and him would always play war," Duran said.

"It sounded like it was taking place in the forest. They were talking about hiding under logs and shooting at the enemy."

Fierce debate erupts on Internet

Trench Coat Mafia fuels argument about stereotyping and labels

By Kevin Flynn

News Staff Writer

Whether they wear black trench coats because they're Goths, would-be Nazis, self-styled outcasts or simply because they liked them, the Trench Coat Mafia fed a furious Internet debate only hours after Tuesday's shootings.

The black trench coat has become a symbol of vampire cults and Gothic lifestyles.

But experts warn those aren't easy labels to apply.

The killers, who other students said sometimes wore swastikas, committed their carnage on Adolf Hitler's 110th birthday. Whether they chose Tuesday because of that isn't known.

But Internet users immediately started doing battle over stereotyping the killers as Goths, homosexuals or racists on the basis of their garb.

Web sites devoted to the trench coat lifestyle play up Gothic themes and games such as Vampire: The Masquerade.

An Internet search shows that Eric Harris, one of the dead gunmen, belonged to a Web group that features Gothic lore.

And in his America Online profile, Harris wrote that he liked to play Doom, a violent computer killing game.

His personal quote was: "Shut up and shoot it — Quit whining, it's just a flesh wound — Kill Em AALLLL!!!!"

But one expert suggested the killers were anti-social misfits who adopted outcast ways as a means of expression without necessarily holding to all the beliefs.

"You have this elastic pool of troubled kids, and to blame any one movement is shortsighted," said Brian Levin, a professor of criminal justice at Richard Stockton State College in Pomona, N.J.

"It's like blaming Judeo-Christianity for the Oklahoma City bombing."

Sgt. Dave Williams, a Dayton, Ohio, police officer who tracks youth cults, said those who dress in trench coats can't be painted with a single brush.

"They're kind of the outcasts already, so they take on the attributes of Goths," he said.

Steve Groer/News Staff Photographer

Pauline Colby, 16, shows a photo of the Trench Coat Mafia in a Columbine High School yearbook. She was a member of the group until last year when other members' attitudes started to scare her.

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VALID WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 21-23

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VALID WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 21-23

Remember to bring in your coupons when you shop, since there will be no additional coupons in the store.

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UNTIL SEPTEMBER

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SLEEPSHIRT
JUST 7.50
WITH $25 PURCHASE*

World's Greatest Mom

HOW TO HELP

■ Give blood. Bonfils Blood Center is taking donations at several locations. On Tuesday, lines of up to two hours were reported. Call these numbers for your closest donor center: (303) 366-2000 or 341-4000. Cindy Walter, vice president of Community Outreach at Bonfils, said more blood will be needed in the weeks ahead to replenish supplies used Tuesday. You can also call Children's Hospital and put your name on a list of potential blood donors. The number is (303) 861-6701. Children's officials asked that anyone wanting to donate today should call ahead. The hospital also is operating a hot line for anyone who needs mental health services. The number is (303) 764-8695.

■ Donate money to victims and their families at a Safeway store. The grocery chain's 120 stores in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and New Mexico will have donations stations starting this morning. Safeway has kicked in $10,000.

■ If someone you know seems traumatized and unable to concentrate, direct him or her to the Jefferson Center for Mental Health crisis line, (303) 425-0300. The center, which employs 350, is staffing lines 24 hours a day.

■ Jefferson Center for Mental Health will offer free counseling at Light of the World Catholic Church, 10306 Bowles Ave. three times today: 9 a.m to 1 p.m., noon to 4 p.m. and 3 to 9 p.m. Please call (303) 425-0300 for details.

HOW TO HELP TRAUMA VICTIMS

■ Talk about it. A tragedy of this scale can rekindle bad memories for many people, even though they are not involved in this event. Keep an open ear for them. Ask what it's like for them.

■ Don't minimize the impact the crisis can have on families even though they are not the primary victim. Parents and friends whose children go to the school may suffer from the trauma.

■ If you know someone who has a child at Columbine, consider taking them to dinner or offering to baby sit or run errands.

Sources: Jefferson Center for Mental Health, American Red Cross, Victims' Services

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EXCLUSIVE "World's Greatest Mom" sleepshirt, a $20 value, **just 7.50** with any purchase of $25 or more.
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All advertised prices are subject to the addition of applicable state, local, and other taxes, and to the addition of applicable fees.

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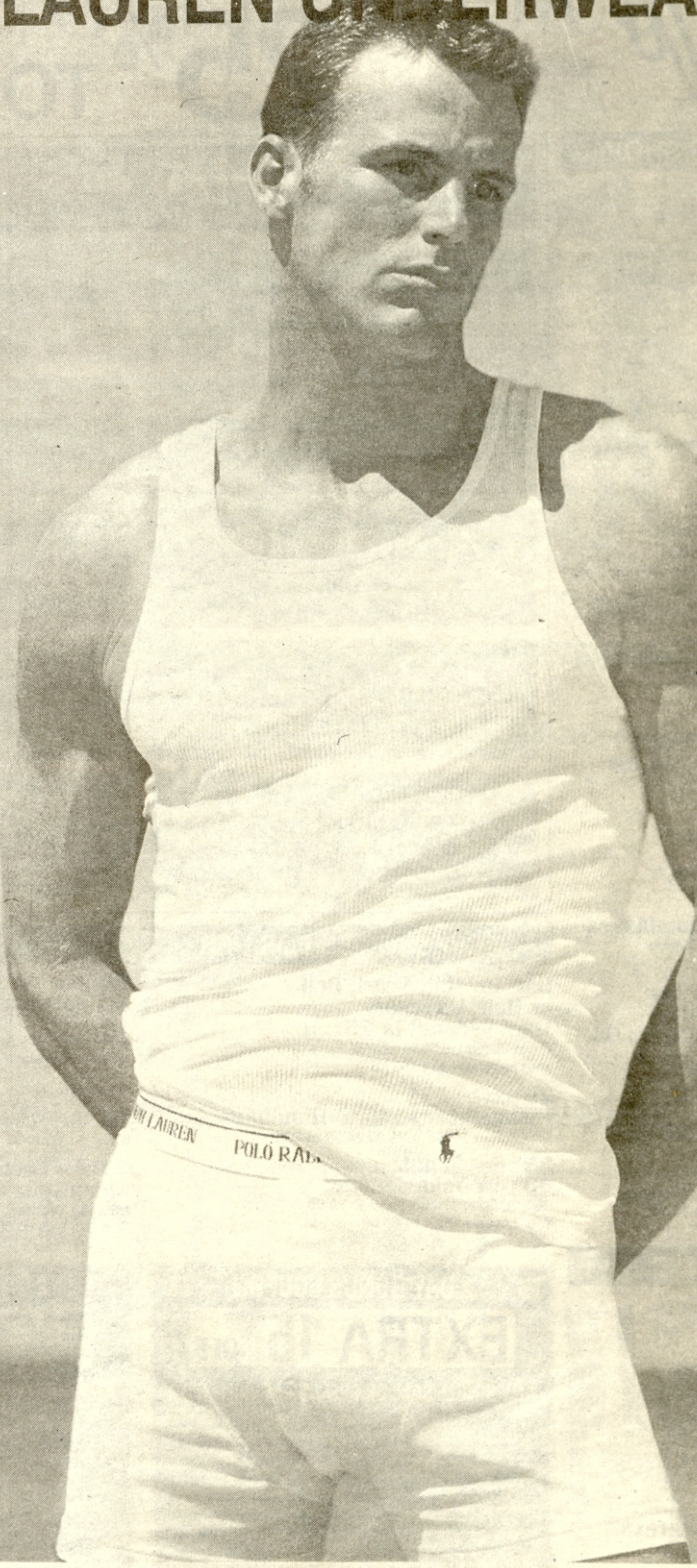
25% OFF ENTIRE STOCK POLO RALPH LAUREN UNDERWEAR



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Shirts, knits, casual pants, sweaters, outerwear. Orig. 39.50 to 214.00
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Specially Priced Casual Classics® Knit Polos
Exclusively for You.
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Today through Sunday, April 25th

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30% OFF* All Bras, Shapers & Coordinating Panties
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VALID WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21ST & THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND

2 DAY BONUS COUPON

EXTRA 15% OFF

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This Lord & Taylor coupon excludes cosmetics, fragrances, personal care/electrics, St. John, Polo Ralph Lauren, Lauren by Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Nautica and DKNY sportswear, Coach, Dooney & Bourke, Lenox and Best Buys and watches in Fine Jewelry. **Discount on men's suits & sportcoats and men's & ladies' rainwear & jackets and fine jewelry purchases under 500.00 is 10% only.** Cannot be combined. Not valid on prior purchases. (C15-15)

VALID WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21ST & THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND

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25% TO 50% OFF
Designer & Famous Maker Career & Casual Collections
Misses • Petites • Women
Orig. 22.00 to 495.00 **10.99 to 296.99**

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Misses • Petites • Women
Orig. & Reg. 143.00 to 320.00 **99.99 to 239.99**

30% OFF Designer Suits
Misses • Petites
Orig. 350.00 to 430.00 **244.99 to 299.99**

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ADDITIONAL 10% OFF*
Your Second† Pair
30 Styles, Exclusively for You††
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SALE 39.99
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Buy Two Specially Priced Items, Your Third† is Free Exclusively for You

*Your reduction off ticketed prices will be taken at the register. **Total Savings off original prices. †Free or additional items must be of equal or lesser value. One gift per customer, please; while supply lasts.
††Reflects total in all Lord & Taylor stores. Selected collections, not every style and size in every store. No adjustments to prior sales purchases. Sale ends Sunday, April 25th, except for clearance items or as noted.
Advertised merchandise may be available at sale prices in upcoming sale events. Our regular and original prices are offering prices only and may or may not have resulted in sales. Charge it with your Lord & Taylor Charge Card.
We also accept American Express, MasterCard,® Visa® and the Discover® Card. For the Lord & Taylor location nearest you, please call 1-800-223-7440, 8 am to 10 pm (ET), every day.

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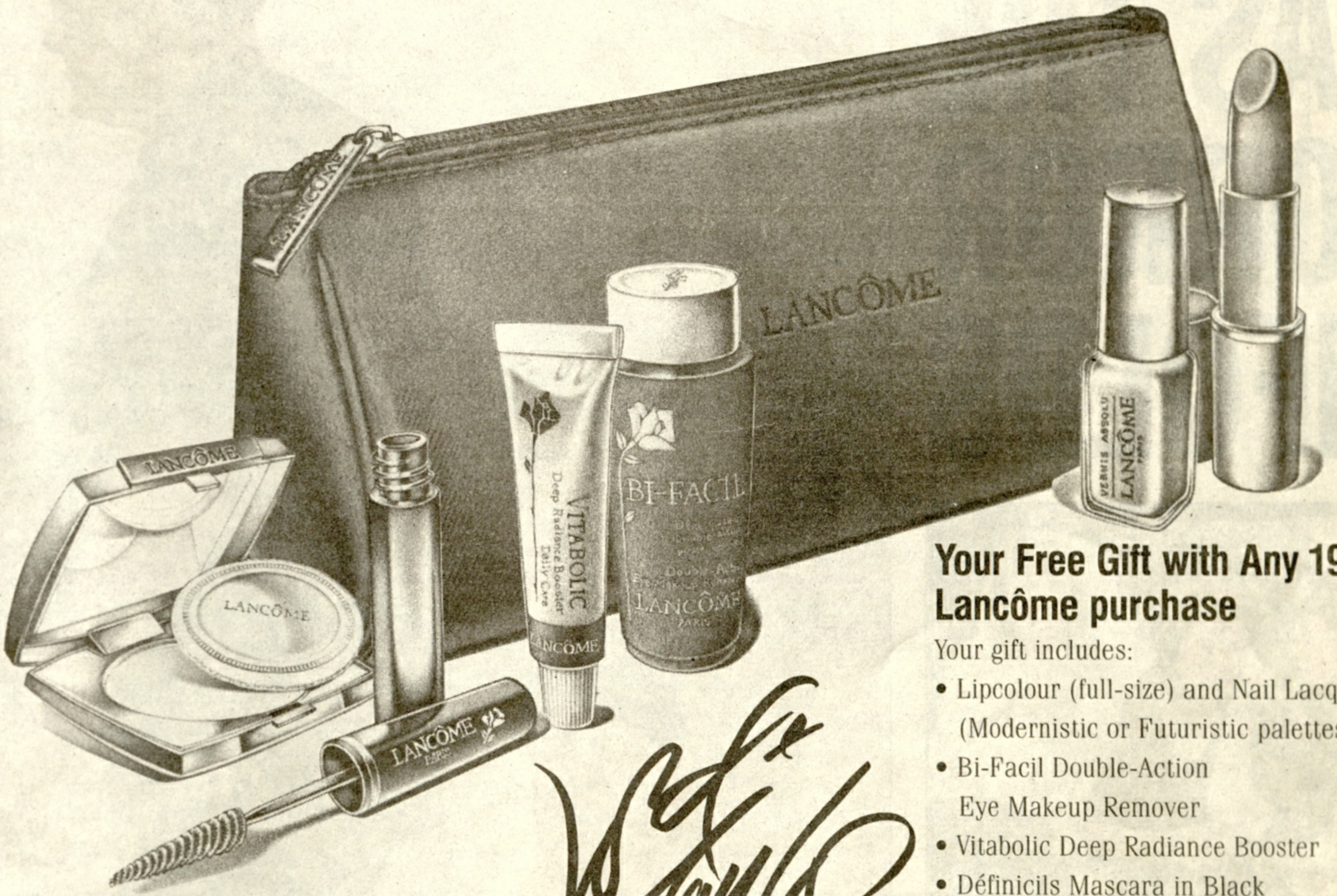
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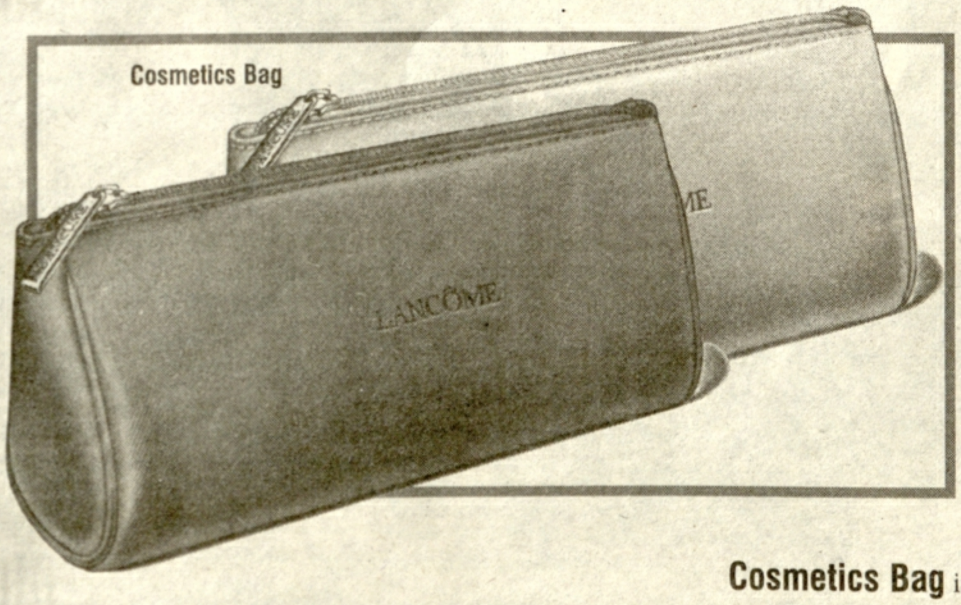
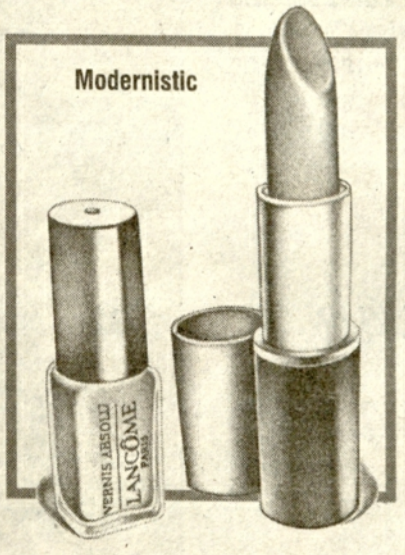
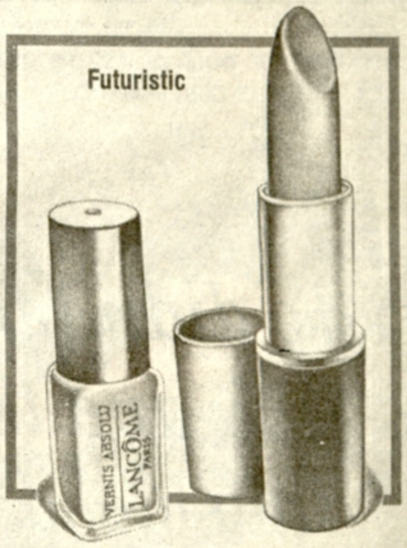

Cosmetics Bag


Modernistic


Futuristic

Cosmetics Bag in Sand or Lavender

The Modernistic Colour Kit includes Rouge Absolu LipColour (full-size) in Amande Sucrée and Vernis Absolu Nail Lacquer in Raisinette.

The Futuristic Colour Kit includes Rouge Sensation LipColour (full-size) in Blind Date and Vernis Absolu Nail Lacquer in Blind Date.

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AS THE HORROR UNFOLDS

Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer

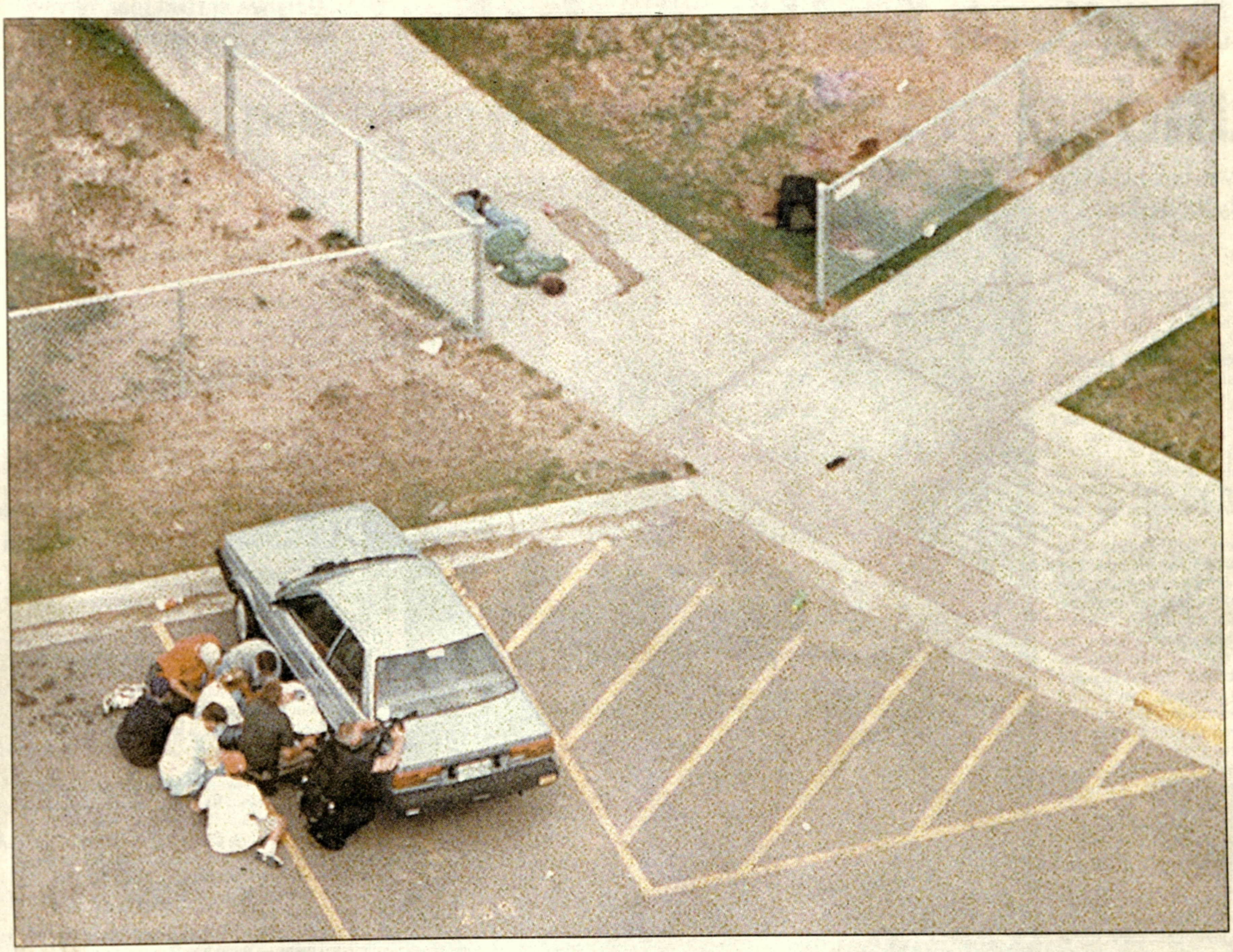
Three women wait for word of victims as they kneel on the ground surrounding the high school.

> “W*e didn’t think it was real, and then we saw blood.*”
>
> Columbine student

George Kochaniec/News Staff Photographer

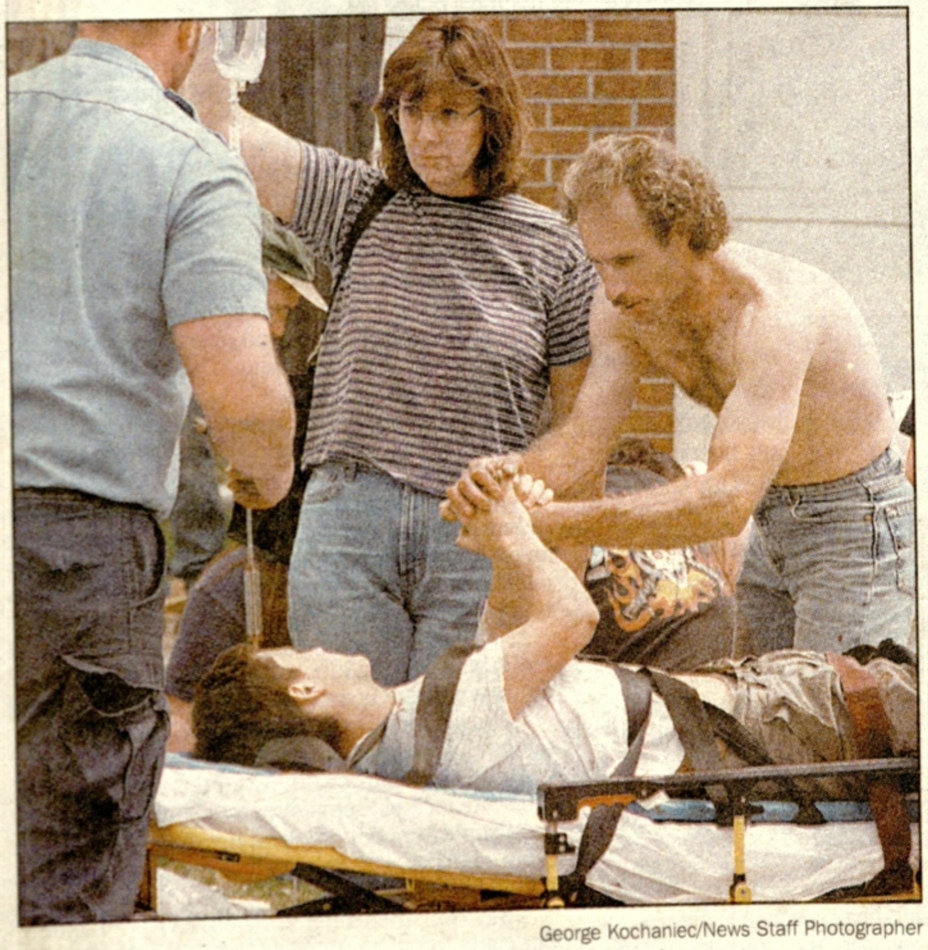
A student gives voice to his grief as an unidentified police officer keeps bystanders from the triage area.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE



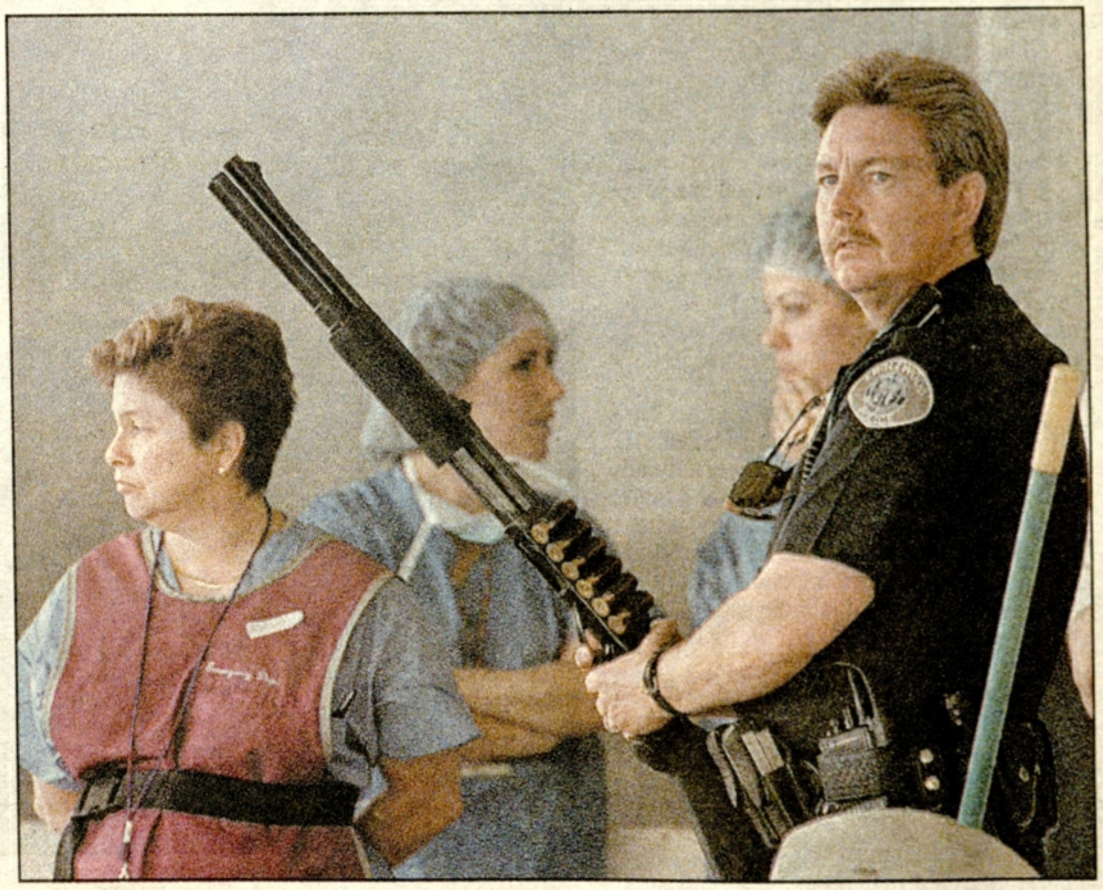
Students and police officers crouch behind a car outside of Columbine High on Tuesday as an unidentified victim lies motionless on a sidewalk.

Rodolfo Gonzalez News Staff Photographer



George Kochaniec/News Staff Photographer

Emergency personnel and local residents help a wounded student on a gurney outside Columbine High School.



Linda McConnell/News Staff Photographer

Englewood Police Officer Tim Creedon stands guard outside the entrance to the emergency room at Swedish Medical Center, while medical personnel await another shooting victim. Police feared a car filled with armed teens was headed to the hospital.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Teen-agers battle to help wounded science teacher

Students try to halt bleeding from gravely injured man

By Carla Crowder
News Staff Writer

One minute, they were teen-agers in science class. The next, they were a wounded teacher's only hope.

"The door opened, and Mr. Sanders runs in and starts coughing up blood. He just poured blood and all the guys took off their T-shirts to fill up the hole," said Marjorie Lindholn, 16, a 10th-grader at Columbine High School.

Lindholn watched Tuesday as a beloved Columbine teacher and coach — Dave Sanders — stumbled, bleeding, into her science class.

Sanders had been shot. Bullets were still flying in the halls, maybe bombs. The students couldn't carry him to safety. And no rescue workers could get through the madness to help him.

Sanders

For more than three grueling hours, the desperate teens tried to stop Sanders' bleeding. He was bleeding so profusely that at first the students thought he'd been shot in the face but later realized it was the chest. They tried to keep him conscious and comfort him.

"I heard him say 'I'm not going to make it.'" Lindholn said. "He was saying, 'Tell my girls I love them.'"

Aaron Hancey, a junior, covered Sanders with emergency wool blankets that are kept in science classrooms. For three hours, he and another student applied pressure.

The students said Sanders has two daughters, one who recently got married. He coaches several girls' sports teams, including basketball and softball, and teaches computer classes.

Students think he'd been on his lunch break and rushed to help get people out of the mayhem when he took a bullet himself. That's when he stumbled into the science classroom, where students huddled inside, trapped by the violence in the hallway.

"He's so nice. He always puts himself out for other people," Lindholn said.

"He was my keyboarding teacher. He's the nicest guy," added Cassie Jacobson, 16.

About 3 p.m., SWAT officers finally made their way through smoke and bullet casings to the science room where Sanders and his young rescuers waited.

"We were in there 3½ hours before we could get any help," Lindholn said.

Police shuttled kids out, lining them up in a single-file line.

"We had to run out one by one as fast as we could with our hands behind our heads," Lindholn said. "We ran past two dead bodies outside."

Inside, medical workers reached Sanders.

Friends and fellow coaches were desperately trying to find him late Tuesday in all the chaos. Many called local hospitals. But most were not releasing victims' names yet.

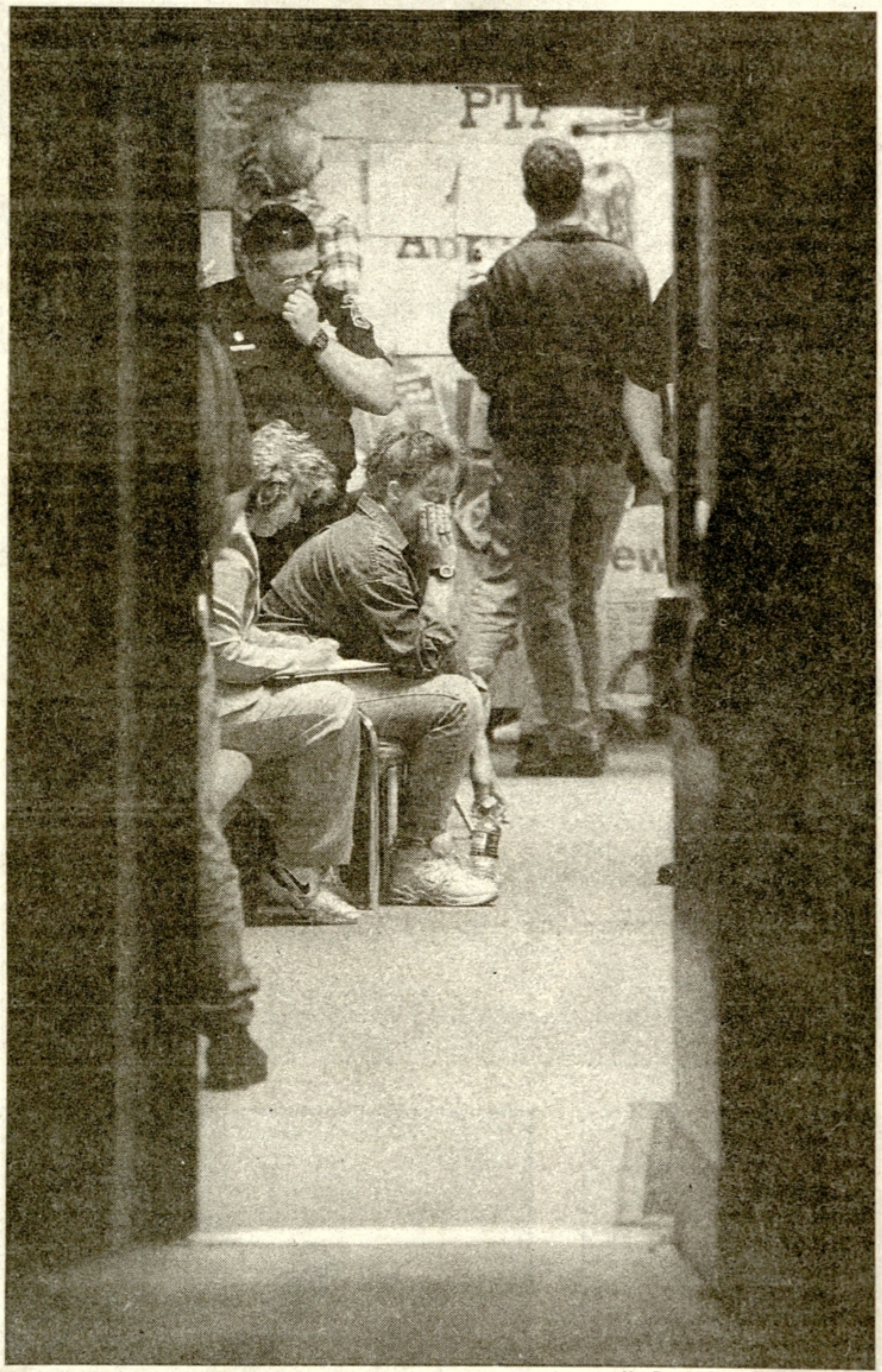
Sanders has been active in girls' athletics at least two decades. Last year, he took over as head girls' basketball coach and led the team to a winning season after finishing next to last the year before. He's also the assistant softball coach.

He's earned the respect of other area coaches, who showered him with compliments Tuesday.

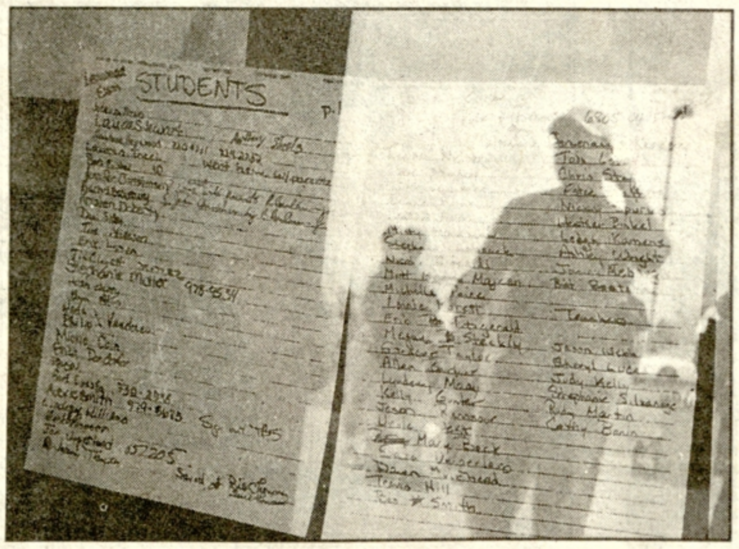
"He is the classic high school coach, loves the game and he's been there for many years," said Gary Anderson, Arvada West girls' basketball coach.

"Just a class act, the consumate high school coach. He did an awesome job this year."

News staff writer Scott Stocker contributed to this report.



Ken Papaleo/News Staff Photographer



Parents, above, who couldn't find their children or their names on any hospital lists Tuesday continued to wait at Leawood Elementary School. A parent, left, is silhouetted against a list posted at the Columbine Library.

Rodolfo Gonzalez
News Staff Photographer

Gunmen spread fear, terror with savage spray of bullets

'You're going to be dead'

By M.E. Sprengelmeyer and Charley Able
News Staff Writers

JEFFERSON COUNTY — Sophomore Amanda Stair huddled in terror under a table in the library, the leg of one of the gunmen just inches away.

To that leg was strapped a gun.

The gunman laid another weapon on the table where Stair took refuge when the shooting started.

For at least 10 minutes, Stair huddled there with only a chair between her and the gunmen.

"The fire alarm went off. The whole place was filled with smoke and was reeking of gunpowder," Stair said. "Then they shot the fire alarm so it didn't ring anymore. We were all holding each other and saying, 'Oh, my God.'"

But the shooter's next words made Stair's blood run cold.

"He was saying to everyone, 'Don't worry, you're going to be dead in a few minutes,'" she said.

Her horror echoed through the campus and surrounding neighborhood. Wherever students fled, they carried tales of terror-filled escape from Columbine's bloody hallways.

But Stair's escape was not immediate.

"The guy picks up, and he goes over to the girl right next to me and he sticks his rifle in there and I hear this huge bang.

"I put my arms over my head thinking I was going to be next, but he didn't see me," said Stair, 15.

After the gunmen finally left the library, Stair and a boy rushed to the girl, pulled her out from under the table and told her she would be OK.

"She said she was shot in the arm . . . right next to me," Stair said.

After the gunmen left, the students in the library fled and many — including Stair — took refuge behind a police car.

Freshman Jason Autenrieth, 15, was eating lunch outside the school commons area when he heard gunshots and looked up to see two gunmen about 30 feet away.

They shot two boys who were standing at a stairway, then turned toward Autenrieth and fired. He and his friends scattered, running inside a nearby doorway.

Autenrieth looked back and saw that a friend, junior Anne Marie Hochhalter, had been shot and was lying near where they had been eating lunch.

"I went back out and tried to drag her as far as I could because I wasn't going to leave her out there," he said.

But the gunmen kept firing and exploded a bomb nearby. He left her still several yards from the doorway.

They ran through the building and went outside, hiding behind a van in the parking lot. A gunman in an upstairs library window spotted them and shot out the windows of the van, Autenrieth said. Finally, a police car drove up and sped them away.

In the lunchroom, cafeteria worker Laverne Helm was serving lunch to the first group of students when she heard kids running and screaming.

"I heard somebody shouting, 'Get down! Get down!'" Helm said.

Helm and about 18 other cafeteria workers and students locked themselves in a laundry room.

"People kept pounding on the door. We just ignored them . . .," fearing that the gunmen were trying to enter, Helm said.

They remained quiet until a SWAT team member came to the door and escorted them out.

"I was fine until I came out and saw these little kids laying on the ground," Helm said, starting to cry. "Then I went to pieces. Who could have dreamed this would happen at Columbine High School?"

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Clinton pledges federal assistance

Community needs time for grief, president says

By Michael Romano

Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — A visibly shaken President Clinton pledged the full resources of the federal government Tuesday to help the Littleton-area community deal with the rampage of violence at Columbine High School.

In a rare appearance in the White House briefing room, Clinton said he had asked Attorney General Janet Reno and Education Secretary Richard Riley to "stand ready to assist" the community. He said that crisis-response teams are prepared to travel to Colorado.

"Perhaps now," the president said, "America will wake up to the dimensions of this challenge if it can happen in a place like Littleton."

"Tonight," he added, "we owe it to the people of Littleton and the families involved in this tragedy to let them go through their grieving and try to get the facts."

Clinton, briefed throughout the day on the developing tragedy, said he spoke with Gov. Bill Owens and Patricia Holloway, a Jefferson County commissioner, moments before his appearance in the briefing room.

"I think, you know, there are a lot of kids out there who have access to weapons — apparently more than guns, here — and who build up these grievances in their own mind and are not being reached. And it's not just Littleton, we know that.

"I don't know how many of you have been there, but I've actually been there," he added. "And it is a wonderful place. And I can't do better than what Patricia Holloway said — the commission chair — if it can happen here, then surely people will recognize that they have to be alive to the possibility that it can occur (anywhere)."

He described the tragedy as "an open wound," and said the community "truly has suffered as much as anyone can suffer.

"Anything I say tonight can only add to the pain."

Clinton did not say whether he plans to visit Colorado. But one report suggested he does not want his presence to detract from the grief of the many victims. The president's next trip to Colorado is planned for June 2, when he is scheduled to make the commencement address at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

The president, who convened a special panel on school violence just last fall, declined to offer specific plans to address the issues raised by the violence — including gun control.

"Tonight, I think the American people ought to be thinking about those folks in Littleton," Clinton said.

"Tomorrow and in the days ahead, we'll have a little more time to kind of gather ourselves and our determination and go back at this again."

CLINTON'S STATEMENT

I want to begin by saying that Hillary and I are profoundly shocked and saddened by the tragedy today where two students opened fire on their classmates before apparently turning their guns on themselves.

I have spoken with Gov. Bill Owens and County Commission chair Patricia Holloway and expressed my profound concern for the people (of the community). . . . I have spoken to Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder, who along with Attorney General Reno is closely monitoring the situation. I've asked the attorney general and the secretary of education to stand ready to assist local law enforcement, the schools, the families, the entire community during this time of crisis and sorrow.

A crisis response team is ready now to travel to Colorado, and I strongly believe that we should do whatever we can to get enough counselors to the families and the children as quickly as possible.

I know the other communities that have been through this are also ready to do whatever they can to help. . . .

We don't know yet all the hows or whys of this tragedy. Perhaps we may never fully understand it. St. Paul reminds us that we all see things in this life through a glass darkly, that we only partly understand what is happening.

We do know that we must do more to reach out to our children and teach them to express their anger and to resolve their conflicts with words, not weapons.

And we do know we have to do more to recognize the early warning signs that are sent before children act violently.

To the families who have lost their loved ones, to the parents who have lost their beloved children, to the wounded children and their families, to the people of the community, . . . I can only say tonight that the prayers of the American people are with you.

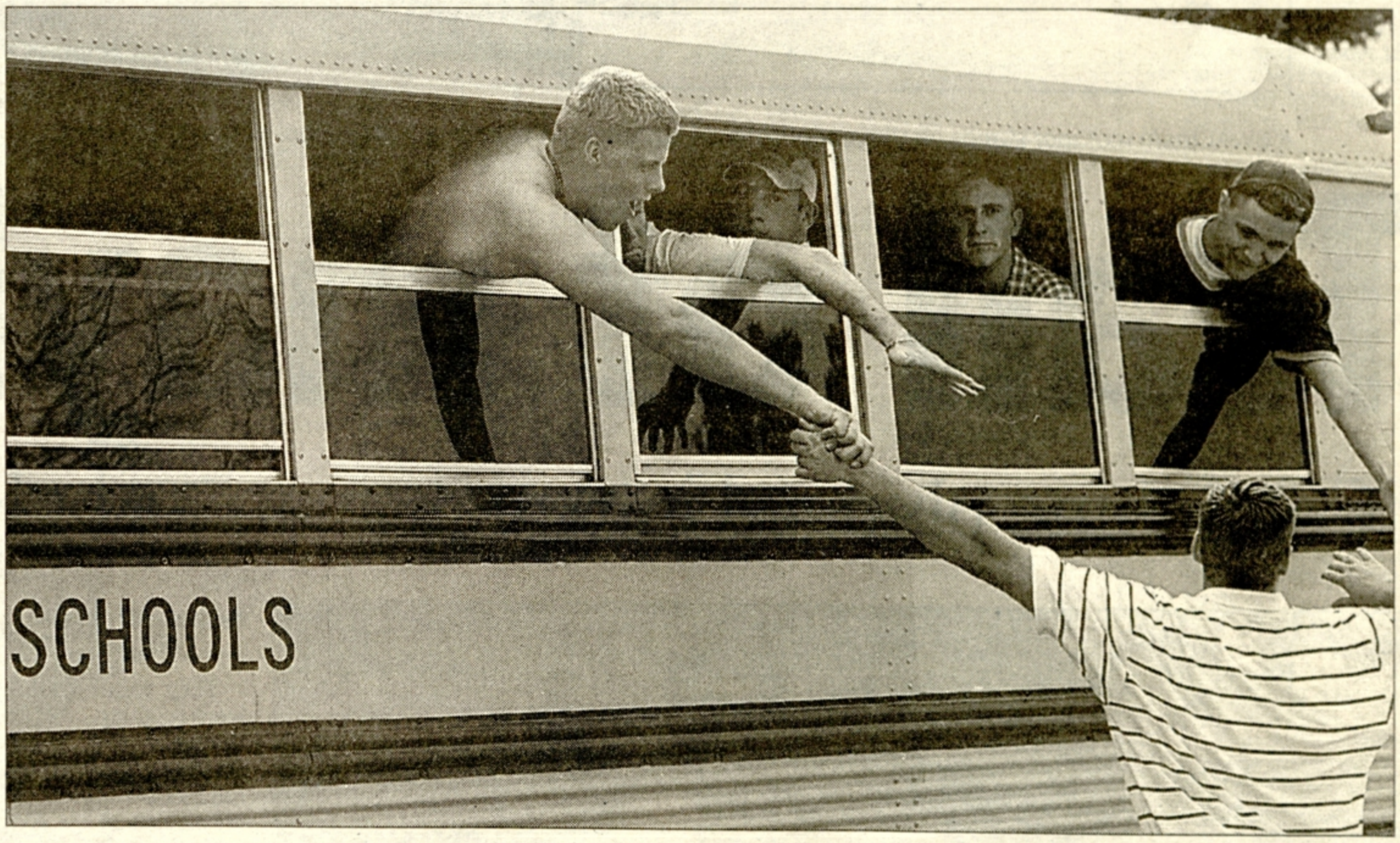
Thank you very much.

Twins helped others in crisis

Two brothers united after separately aiding students

By Kevin Vaughan

News Staff Writer



Ken Papaleo/News Staff Photographer

Adam Foss, left, reaches to greet friends Tuesday as a bus full of students reached Leawood Elementary School. Foss and his twin brother, Nick, are credited with helping others during the deadly rampage at Columbine High School.

JEFFERSON COUNTY — When twin brothers Nick and Adam Foss were finally reunited Thursday afternoon, each had plenty to tell the other.

The two 18-year-olds had been in different parts of Columbine High School when gunfire and explosions shattered a quiet Tuesday morning. And each had done his best to help others in the midst of a horrific scene.

"It was one of the scariest moments I have ever been in," Nick said after it was over, his head freshly grazed by a bullet. "These guys were killing just to kill."

When the gunfire started, Nick and other students helped herd people into a bathroom. At one point, he ventured a look out.

"I just saw guns and big black capes," he said. Then he heard gunfire and the bullet grazed the side of his head.

In another part of the building, Adam practiced for a choir concert that was supposed to be performed at an elementary school after lunch. When the trouble started, half the people in the room ran one way; the others ran with Adams to a cramped office. They waited there for hours.

Eventually they pulled out ceiling tiles and lifted several students with asthma up where the air was fresher.

In the packed room, some students prayed, some cried.

"We kept them as calm as possible," Adam said.

At one point, the tension was cut by a ringing telephone. It was the elementary school calling, wondering what was holding up the concert.

Eventually SWAT officers rescued the students.

Nick, in the meantime, decided he had to get out of the bathroom. He had tried to pound on the wall of another room, but no one answered. So he, his friend Tim Castle and other students crawled into the ceiling. They crept through the school on heat ducts looking for other students to warn.

As Nick moved along, the duct broke. He plunged 18 feet through the ceiling into the teacher's lounge, where he landed on his side on a table.

He got up and ran, and he didn't stop until he met police officers outside.

"You die, or not — that's what it came down to," Nick said.

Students and staff throughout the campus faced the same kind of harrowing circumstances.

Maintenance man Jon Curtis was in the basement near the cafeteria when he saw a gunman standing in the soccer field about 100 yards away dressed in a black trench coat.

"He appeared to be armed with a high-powered rifle and was shooting in the direction of the cafeteria," Curtis said. "I went into the cafeteria to try to evacuate students inside."

Curtis said he found one student with a gunshot wound in what appeared to be his back. Curtis said he tried to offer encouragement to the youngster, telling him to hang in there, help is on the way.

"We never thought it would happen in here; it's basically a bad dream," Curtis said.

Staff writers Hector Gutierrez and Mike Patty contributed to this report.

Photos by Cyrus McCrimmon/News Staff Photographer

A SWAT team member stands on the roof of a house adjacent to Columbine High School as the drama unfolds Tuesday afternoon.

Trail of mayhem

Columbine plunged into nightmare of bullets and blood

Students run across a drainage ditch outside Columbine High after escaping the school.

By Lisa Levitt Ryckman

News Staff Writer

They were shooting, and they were laughing.

That's what everyone heard, the laughter from the shooters and the metallic echo of bullets bouncing off lockers.

In the halls, and in the classrooms, they could hear the sound of yelling and crying.

And then the sound of their own hearts pounding as they ran to hide, or to some kind of safety.

It was lunch time on Tuesday at Columbine High School. And for two guys with guns, it was killing time.

❑

Fifth period, sometime around 11:30 a.m. There were kids in class and kids in the upstairs library and the first shift of kids in the cafeteria, also known as the commons.

That's where Adam Thomas was when he saw the two students in the black trench coats, two of a group that other kids called the Trench Coat Mafia. Seniors with swastikas on their berets, outcasts who stood together against a world they believed was coming to an end.

Thomas, 16, saw the guns, thought they looked like AK-47s. Thought it was a joke, a senior prank. And then his friend Michael Johnson was shot in the leg. And then a girl was wounded, and Thomas saw the blood. And then he knew it was real.

He ran to hide, and he heard bullets whistle past his ears.

"Get down! Get under a table," a custodian yelled, and six kids ducked down, and waited. And listened. Silence.

"Crawl," someone ordered, and the kids began snaking across the floor on their stomachs until they reached the stairs, and then they ran. And around them, there were shots again, and screams, and one boy fell, wounded.

In the parking lot, there were explosions. Jake Apodaca, 16, and a friend were in the student lot when he saw the shooters.

Inside the commons, cafeteria worker Karen Nielsen was trying to help three wounded students

See **TRAIL** on **17A**

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Photos by Ken Papaleo/News Staff Photographer

An unidentified student races into the arms of her parents at Leawood Elementary School, where students were taken after they were released from Columbine High School.

TRAIL from **16A**

when the shooters came into sight, and Nielsen herded the students into a bathroom. She could hear the gunmen. "They were blowing the heck out of the place."

She pulled a phone into the bathroom to call 911, then thought better of it. The gunmen might see the cord. They might find them.

There was pizza for lunch, and junior Alejandra "Alex" Marsh, 16, was eating some when she heard shots. She saw someone she knew carrying a shotgun, and she saw someone she didn't know with blood soaking his jeans.

When she saw the gunman again, he didn't have a gun: He had some kind of bomb. He threw it into the senior parking lot, and it exploded.

She knew the guy. "He was more than capable of doing this," she said. "He had spoken of doing something like this, but in an almost jesting kind of way."

Marsh had heard the threats, and she wasn't the only one. And she had seen this guy and his friends with weapons. "Knives and clubs," she said. "I'd never seen them with guns."

The shooters went from the commons to the library above, where kids already were diving under the tables. Smoke and screams filled the room, and gunfire, and the laughter of the shooters. Under the table, a girl took a bullet in the head.

The shots shattered the silence of Meghan Campbell's algebra II class, where they were 15 minutes into a test. It must be a chemistry class, an experiment gone awry, she thought.

And then the fire drill went off, and everybody ran outside and across the street, certain that the school was blowing up. When a friend told Campbell that it was kids with guns, she didn't believe him. She didn't believe him until her best friend came up

See **TRAIL** on **18A**

IN THEIR WORDS

■ Scott Greunke, 15, huddled in a science classroom with 30 other students as explosives went off outside the door.

"It shook our classroom," he said.

The class held hands and prayed.

"I wrote a letter to my parents. I thought I was going to die. I just wrote I love them. I'm really scared right now. What's going on?"

After more than three hours, he escaped.

■ Sophomore Will Beck ran to a nearby apartment complex to call his mother and tell her he was OK.

Beck had just missed another tragedy in February, when the McDonald's restaurant where he worked was robbed at gunpoint and employees were herded into the freezer. He wasn't there.

"I am not having a lucky year," he told his mother.

She countered: "No, you're having a very lucky year."

■ A group of Columbine soccer players huddled on Lamar Street, about 150 yards behind the school, desperate to find their teammate, Pam Karakusis.

Karakusis had won the game for Columbine on Monday night against archrival Chatfield.

"Last night we played, and today we're watching our friends get shot," said Layne Newton, 18.

Karakusis appeared. The girls screamed and hugged her.

■ Chris and Cheryl Mosier, husband and wife, are science teachers at Columbine High School working in classrooms on the same hall, two rooms apart.

When the violence erupted, they barricaded themselves and their students in their classrooms.

For four hours.

"The kids were pretty petrified," Chris Mosier said.

He kept 50 freshmen calm, while Cheryl Mosier looked after 20 others.

"We had no idea about each other. It was pretty worrisome," Chris Mosier said.

Cheryl Mosier's class got out first. When her husband got outside, he ran past some officers.

"They asked me, 'Are you the husband? Your wife's all right.' "

■ Garrett Looney, an All-Colorado football player, said the school was "absolutely crazy."

"Things like this happen; you see it on the news and read the papers," he said.

"But it doesn't seem to touch you, or you don't ever think about it until all

See **WORDS** on **18A**

WORDS from **17A**

of a sudden you are right in the middle of it."

■ Denver SWAT team member Robert Broden, one of the first to survey the carnage in the Columbine library on Tuesday, braced himself for the worst.

Two of his nephews are students at the school.

He didn't find them there, and the grim search continued.

As his SWAT team inched through the corridors after clearing the auditorium, low sounds came from the music room.

"We announced 'police' and they finally believed us," he said. "They had barricaded themselves into an office room and stacked chairs against the door."

There were 20 to 30 students in the room. One was his nephew, John.

He had only a few words for him: "Get down and follow the other officers."

Later, Broden got more good news. His other nephew, sophomore Steve Broden, was found safe by another SWAT team in the science room.

■ "There's Candace!"

Father, mother and stepmother raced across the crowded gym floor at Leawood Elementary School, all trying to be first to hug their Columbine ninth-grader.

At first, Candace Haywood, one of hundreds of Columbine High School students standing on the stage at Leawood waiting to be claimed by tearful, joyful parents, didn't see them.

Then Greg Haywood was hugging her tightly. When Candace's mother, Wanda, and stepmother, Jody, joined in the family hug, she broke down.

"I hadn't cried most of the day," said Candace, who crawled up a stairway from Columbine's lunch room to flee the bullets. "But when I got a hold of the three of them, I just couldn't stop."

Greg, a flight attendant for United Airlines, broke down, too.

"It was the greatest relief of my whole life," he said.

Greg heard about the shootings as he was leaving Denver International Airport after finishing a trip.

"I kept thinking that this morning, when I dropped her off at school, might have been the last time I would ever talk to her," Greg said. "That's a pretty hollow feeling."

— Staff writers Carla Crowder, Karen Abbott, Lynn Bartels, Charley Able, Brian Weber, Norm Clarke, Bill Scanlon, Scott Stocker and M.E. Sprengelmeyer contributed to this report.

Parents spend day in agony, waiting for news

Hal Stoelzle/News Staff Photographer

Friends embrace a student just after she was freed and before she boarded a bus east of the school.

Steven R. Nickerson/News Staff Photographer

Bloody shoes and socks lie at the side of an ambulance where they were left outside the emergency room at St. Anthony Hospital Central.

TRAIL from **17A**

to her, crying, and said that another friend had been shot.

Inside the school, Jonathan Vandemark's biology class turned over tables for protection. The 16-year-old saw the shooters set off flares inside the school, and smoke filled the halls. He and his classmates watched the television inside their classroom, and stayed there until a SWAT team ordered them out.

They walked downstairs, past three bodies, bodies of students. Vandemark was sure of that: "They still had their backpacks on," he said.

A SWAT team finally came for Susan White, secretary to Columbine Principal Frank DeAngelis, who hid under a desk with campus supervisor Sydney Keating for two hours.

"Twenty minutes after we got under there, the shooters came through the office yelling and shooting," she said. "I thought it was over. They kept shooting rounds. You could hear glass breaking, then it got quiet again."

All White could think about was her daughter, Lindsey, a Columbine junior.

"I kept looking at my watch, going through her schedule in my head," she said. "I hoped she had gone out for lunch like she usually did."

Five minutes before the shooting began, Lindsey bought a pizza at the school store. Then she went home to let her friend's dog out.

Pam Glazner, 18, a senior and editor of the school newspaper, *The Courier*, was in concert choir with 110 people. When they realized what was happening, they ran to the auditorium, and then out the front door.

Glazner cut her hand, "But when I was running, I couldn't even feel any pain at all."

Only the adrenaline pumping through her body and the urgency to run, and survive.

The people who couldn't get out hid for their lives, in closets, in classrooms, under desks, in bathroom, under bleachers. An hour and a half after the shooting began, a kid named James was hiding under a desk upstairs, talking to television people on the phone. He could hear running, and gunshots, and a bunch of people crying outside.

"I'm hiding underneath this desk," he said. "I hope they don't find out where I am."

The television people said the police wanted to talk to him, and James dialed 911.

But he couldn't get through.

There were too many other callers jamming the lines, frantic parents looking for their children. Outside, parents were running up to SWAT team members, begging for information. Students who escaped were shaking and crying, huddling together in nearby parks, holding impromptu prayer groups. Ambulances shuttled between the school and hospitals with wounded.

Michelle Taylor, a nurse with Hospice Denver who happened to be in the neighborhood seeing a patient, suddenly found herself treating teen-agers with gunshot wounds. She made makeshift tourniquets out of T-shirts to stop their bleeding.

At 2:45 p.m., a stream of students began to pour from the building. Dozens came out in the next hour, but senior Lauren Townsend, 18, was not among them. Her stepfather, Bruce Beck, searched each face, sure that Townsend would be the next to emerge.

"You see all the kids run out of the building," he said. "You're just sure one of the kids is going to be yours."

Townsend's mother, Dawn Anna, who coaches volleyball at Columbine, stayed by the phone all day, certain that her daughter was going to call any minute. Townsend had just attended the prom on Saturday night. Her parents were sure they would get good news.

The day turned into night, and no news came.

When the smoke cleared, there were many dead in the halls of Columbine High School, a quiet school, an academic school. A school that pioneered a peer counseling program in 1976, the state's first.

They had just held tryouts for 15 peer counselor positions, and 50 kids showed up. It's an honor for kids to be chosen to listen to other kids talk about their problems.

❑

The girl had already been splashed with the blood of her friends when the kid with the gun started talking.

"Everyone around me got shot," she said. "He did it right in front of us."

For 10 minutes, she begged him not to kill her. He waved the gun in her face, and then he told her what was bothering him.

"He said it was because kids were mean to him last year."

And in the end, the shooters turned the guns on themselves. They left behind an unintended epitaph, one they wrote themselves and published in the school yearbook, *Rebelations*.

"Who says we're different?" reads the dedication under a photo with the words "Trenchcoat Mafia" above it.

"Insanity's healthy! Stay alive, stay different, stay crazy."

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Grief flows across metro Denver

Owens, wife comfort parents waiting in the gym for news

News Staff

Tension at Columbine rippled into the Capitol on Tuesday, where Gov. Bill Owens and lawmakers somberly watched TV to see the tragedy at the school unfold.

Calling the shooting "senseless violence" and a "Colorado tragedy," Owens and his wife, Frances, went to comfort grieving parents inside the gymnasium at Leawood Elementary School.

"I've got three children to hug tonight."

Earlier he had monitored the shootings from his office, canceling appointments and staying in direct contact with law enforcement officers at the scene.

Scrutiny also came from the two sponsors of the major concealed-weapons bill — Sen. Ken Chlouber, R-Leadville, and Rep. Doug Dean, R-Colorado Springs. Dean watched television in a room off the House floor after House Speaker Russ George, R-Rifle, announced the shootings to the House of Representatives.

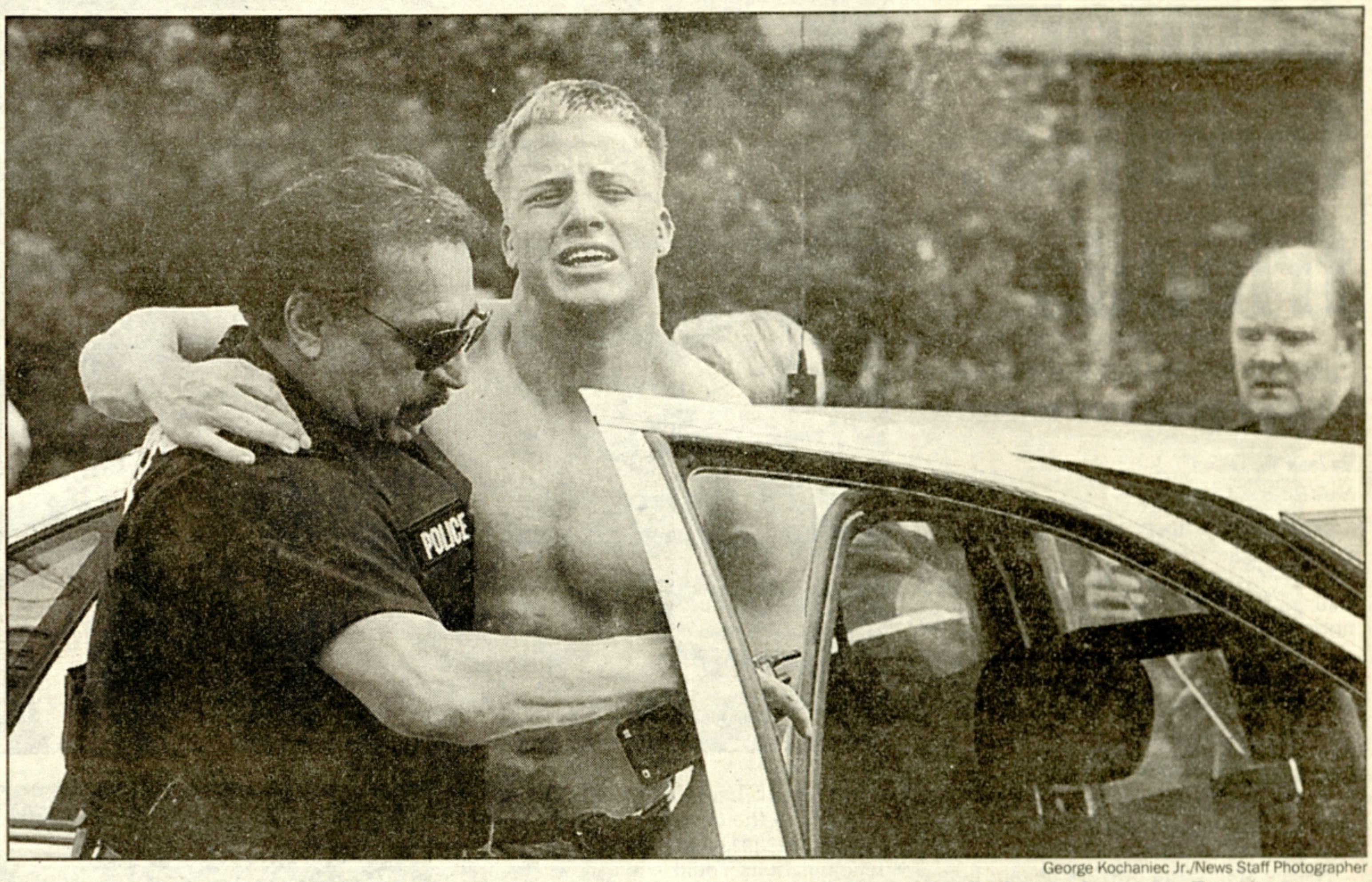
Chlouber insisted there was no connection between the shootings and his bill, which has dominated debate recently in the legislature.

Denver Mayor Wellington Webb called the shootings a "tragedy of indescribable proportions" and ordered police officers placed in each Denver school for the rest of the week.

"Now is the time for the metro Denver community to come together and offer each other support and prayers as we mourn the senseless deaths of those killed in this horrific shooting," Webb said.

Littleton Mayor Pat Cronenberger expressed "deepest sympathy to the families and the victims" and volunteered the city's resources in helping Jefferson County cope with the tragedy.

The shock of the shootings sent waves throughout the entire metro area, disrupting normal activities and canceling events.



George Kochaniec Jr./News Staff Photographer

A police officer helps a wounded student at the triage area near Columbine High School in Jefferson County on Tuesday.

The Denver Nuggets canceled their game against the Portland Trailblazers, and the Colorado Rockies canceled an outing against the Montreal Expos.

The Regional Transportation District board canceled its regular meeting and sent two buses to evacuate students. The buses also were used to shuttle 50 grief counselors and police officers, spokesman Scott Reed said.

At St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Parish, where 90 percent of the members of the youth group attend Columbine High School, employees and volunteers canceled Tuesday's religious education classes and compiled a list of youths known to be safe.

As they and others worked, concerned residents dropped off food, soft drinks and cellular telephones at Leawood Elementary, where parents and students were reuniting and grappling with grief and fear.

At nearby Southwest Plaza mall the mood was somber and shoppers scarce.

"We haven't had a sale in two hours," said 17-year-old Brooke Miller of Bailey, a sales clerk. "It's scary. I know these guys (Trenchcoat Mafia members) walk around the mall all the time."

Staff writers John Sanko, Kevin Vaughan, Joe Garner, Karen Abbott and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Those who weathered Oregon shooting offer ways to cope

Community must share resources, say experts from Springfield incident

By Janet Simons

News Staff Writer

The people of Springfield, Ore., have been through a school shooting, and they have an inkling of what's ahead for Denver-area children and parents.

Last May 21, a student opened fire in a crowded cafeteria at Thurston High School, killing one student and injuring 23.

John Ganz, a school counselor in Seattle, headed the National Organization for Victim Assistance trauma team that helped Springfield get through those awful first days.

"Kids and parents will be going in and out of shock for the next few days," Ganz said. "Parents will feel the need to be overprotective, and that's normal. Kids may bounce back and forth between hysteria and withdrawal. People will be horrified and shocked and stunned."

An event of this magnitude constitutes a community crisis, Ganz said, and the community as a whole will need a plan for getting through funerals, and through the scrutiny of the international press.

He said the people in charge of community resources are also going to be traumatized.

"There need to be community debriefings and ventings, and lots of education about what the normal response is to a very abnormal event."

Jim Forbes, executive director of Looking Glass Youth and Family Services in Springfield, said it's essential for the community to coordinate resources.

"My message to your community is to make sure your help lines and mental health services and school counselors are organized and orchestrated into a response system that can handle those calls when they start pouring in."

Rosemary Pryor, communications director for the city of Springfield, said, "People here are still pretty fragile."

"I think the most shocking aspect is that, when you finally have time to think, you realize that every day we send our children to school without giving any thought to their safety. Then we find that they aren't safe. It was almost more than any of us in Springfield could bear.

"What's devastating is that there's no pattern, no magic solution, no quick answers. One of the most overwhelming feelings that will emerge is a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness, and it's really important not to give in to that."

Pryor said she had a long talk with her sons, 14 and 16. Her sons do not attend Thurston.

"I told them how much I love them.

"You're different the day after it happens in your town or your state. You just don't think about things the same way. I still talk to my sons a lot about violent video games, violent movies and violence, period. Our children have grown up being systematically desensitized to violence, and I intend to change that with my two teenage sons."

Pryor's attitude reflects a step that's a long way down the road for the Denver area — the ability to turn shock and anger into social action. Springfield has responded by fighting for more high school counselors and offering courses in anger management for teens.

Therapist urges parents to be ready to intervene

If one of your child's acquaintances looks a little strange, or seems a little too interested in guns, or seems to revel in being a loner, don't be reluctant to interfere.

You need to, an expert in child violence says.

"We shouldn't see these kids as oddballs, but as kids who are desperately crying out for help," Rabbi Yehuda Fine says. He is a family therapist in Evergreen this week to present a keynote address on school violence at the National Alternative School Community Conference.

Parents who worry that their child's friend is potentially violent should not hesitate to call a school counselor or a mental health hot line or look in the phone book for local family therapists.

"Let's not make the mistake of labeling this as the result of violence in media or the influence of Marilyn Manson. Kids on the edge are identifiable, they're angry, they're isolated, they have a potential for violence," he said.

"We have to more aggressively identify and work with these kids. We can't just say, 'Oh, they're weird.'"

—Janet Simons

Churches comfort families, friends

Survivors and classmates gather to pray and to grieve

By Jean Torkelson

News Religion Writer

JEFFERSON COUNTY — The pastor made it clear from the start why an overflow crowd of 1,200 was packing St. Francis Cabrini Church on such short and terrible notice.

"Teens and parents of Columbine, we love you and we are here for you tonight," Pastor Ken Leone said.

So began a service Tuesday evening at one of the many churches touched by the Columbine tragedy.

At least 100 Cabrini families have students at Columbine, two miles north of the church.

As the songs and prayers began, Leone announced that one student, Val Schnurr, had just left surgery.

Another Cabrini member, Lisa Kruetz, 18, was entering surgery at that moment.

In an interview before the service, Leone said two parishioners, a student and a teacher, were still missing.

"My suspicion is, if they can't find them by now, they're dead," Leone said.

Everywhere there were stories of close and horrifying calls.

In the foyer, Nathan Trojan, 12, wrapped his arms around his dad as tears rolled down his cheeks.

Nearby stood his sister, Katie, 16, mutely grasping a friend's hand.

Katie, her mother explained, had on impulse gone to the counseling office for college material — otherwise she would have been in the line of fire.

Some people huddled in pews. Others exchanged dazed looks, impulsively reaching out for hugs.

One woman asked a friend frantically, "Where's Patrick?" The friend nodded reassuringly and then said, in a tone of shock, "All those kids, yelling for help . . ."

The service of hymns and prayers was scheduled for 40 minutes but lasted well over an hour. Leone called the Columbine students to the center of the circular altar area so that priests and clergy from other denominations could come down to pray with them.

Vicar General Monsignor Raymond Jones read a statement from Archbishop Charles Chaput, who was returning from Wichita.

"Finding the right words is difficult at a time like this even for an archbishop," Chaput wrote. "I cannot begin to understand the anguish you feel, I can only say if you seek out God's comfort he will walk with you, even at a moment like this."

Led by their youth pastor, several Columbine survivors stood to speak.

The first young man paused for a long time, then said, "I'm friends with every one of these people."

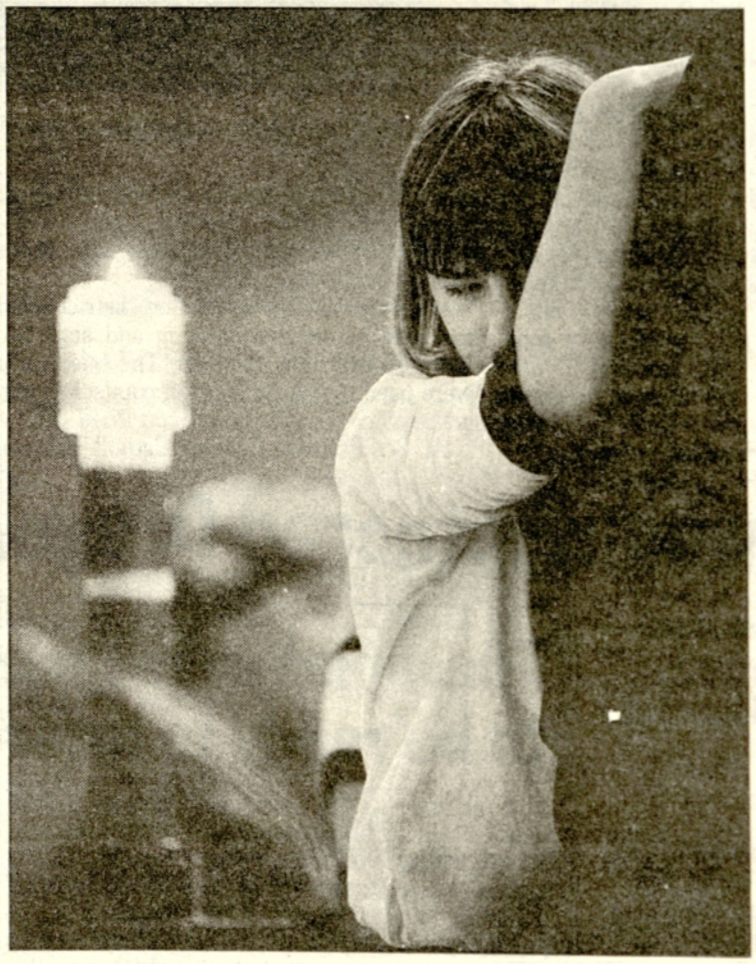
Another recalled being puzzled at the sound of the shots, "like something had gone wrong in chemistry lab."

Said a third, "When the bullet came through our classroom the only thing that got me through was God."

In the vestibule, Lloyd Swint stood to the side holding a walkie-talkie. He had spent a horrifying day as an Arapahoe County Sheriff's investigator.

Now he just wanted to be with his parish family at St. Francis Cabrini.

"It seems the place to be," Swint said. "It's been a long day."



Above, students from Columbine High School pray at a service Tuesday night at Light of the World Catholic Church in Jefferson County after a shooting rampage at the school. At left, a girl at the prayer service grieves for fallen classmates.

Photos by
Patrick Davison
News Staff Photographer

Jefferson County school officials: Expect increased security

By Shelley Gonzales

News Staff Writer

GOLDEN — Columbine High School and all other Jefferson County schools will be closed today.

District leaders said to expect heightened security in the wake of Tuesday's rampage.

"This is the worst kind of tragedy a community can have," Superintendent Jane Hammond said, her eyes swollen from crying. "Our hearts go out to our students, families and our staff."

Like much of the city, schools officials followed the grim reports on television. Jefferson County school board member Deb Oberbeck sat transfixed at district headquarters as the news filtered in: There were bodies at Columbine High. Many of them.

And she wept.

Fellow board member Tori Merritts shook her head in disbelief.

Calls had been coming into the district since just before noon, as early word of trouble at the school spread: frantic parents demanding their children; strangers wanting to know how they could help; people from across the nation extending sympathy; reporters. Many of them.

All were turning to Jefferson County school leaders for information, help, assurance, while they themselves were desperate for the same.

"This a tragic situation that comes in the middle of an otherwise normal school," Hammond said. "This will have a life-changing impact on our community."

Mental health teams were dispatched to Columbine. Other schools, especially in the southwestern metro area, activated their own crisis teams.

By 3 p.m., the district set up a phone bank of 10 people charged with calling each family with children at Columbine to make sure they were OK.

Other administrators were sent to hospitals to check on the injured students and their families.

By early evening, administrators had set up an information clearinghouse, but details came slowly.

"How can you come to terms with something like this?" Merritts said. "As a parent of teenagers, you realize that this could easily be your own kids and your own school."

School has history of excellence

Columbine academics, athletics win praise

By Lori Tobias
News Staff Writer

Columbine High School is considered one of the best all-around academic and athletic schools in the state, providing education for 1,800 students.

"I've worked in any number of communities in my career and there's not a community I am more fond of," said Terry Conley, Columbine High School principal from 1975 to 1980, now executive director of high school education for Cherry Creek Schools.

The tan block and glass school sits on a hill next to Clement Park in southeast Jefferson County.

"It's probably the most beautiful school in the county," said Linda Anderson, who taught at Columbine several years ago and now directs an internship program for Jefferson County schools. "The facility is fantastic. It's the sort of place you'd love to send your kids."

Named after the state flower, Columbine is known for its high-achieving students, its winning basketball and soccer programs, and its most famous alumni: rock musicians Big Head Todd and the Monsters.

Columbine opened in 1973 and underwent a $13.4 million renovation in 1995.

Its motto is "Stretch for Excellence," its mission statement "(to) . . . teach, learn and model life skills and attitudes that prepare us to work with people, prepare for change, think critically, act responsibly, and live in harmony with others in our environment."

Eighty-five percent of its graduates attend two- or four-year institutions, with many going on to attend major universities and head major companies.

A perennial contender for state championships in many sports, the school won the class 5A boys' basketball championship in 1997 and boys' soccer championships in 1986 and 1993. The soccer team was also the state runner-up in 1996 and 1998, and the boys' baseball team won the championship in 1987.

Special programs offered at Columbine include forensics, debate, publications and many others.

"It's an exceptionally fine community," Conley said. "The parents are phenomenal, very supportive, very involved . . . who really value education, value doing things right."

Area schools increase security

Bomb scare sends Denver's South High students home early

By Brian Weber
News Education Writer

School districts around the metro area were shaken Tuesday by bomb scares and fear, and some increased security after the Columbine High School tragedy.

In Denver, South High School received a bomb scare about midday and then a suspicious briefcase was found in a restroom. No bomb was found, but school was dismissed early because of the incidents, Amy Hudson, a district spokeswoman, said.

Students at Highlands Ranch High School found a paper bag near the front door around 7:30 a.m. that contained a watch and wires. Thinking it might be a bomb, school officials called the Douglas County bomb squad.

"It was a hoax," district spokeswoman Carol Kamess said.

Classes resumed about an hour later.

Littleton locked down its schools west of Santa Fe Drive — a lockdown is when all doors except the main one is locked.

The district experienced no problems and did not dismiss school early.

Jefferson County schools were locked down after the shooting and all after-school activities were cancelled.

In Cherry Creek, schools tried to make adults more visible to students for reassurance, spokeswoman Michelle Cahn said. Schools also sent home letters telling parents how to talk to their children about the shootings.

More security guards and patrols were added in Cherry Creek and other districts. Denver deployed additional officers in the southwest area closest to Jefferson County.

"Our concern is not that these guys come from Columbine but when things like this happen it rattles the cages of other extremists," said Larry Lindauer, principal of Kennedy High School, near the Jefferson County border.

All districts will have counselors available today for students and teachers who need help.

Officers flood campus

Hundreds involved in crisis exceeds hunt for survivalists in '98

By Manny Gonzales and Hector Gutierrez
News Staff Writers

JEFFERSON COUNTY — Within a few hours of the first gunshot Tuesday morning, between 300 and 500 police officers and federal agents descended on Columbine High School.

It was more than twice the contingent formed nearly a year ago when 200 law enforcement officers hunted for three camouflaged men who killed a Cortez police officer and fled into the rugged desert canyons in the Four Corners region.

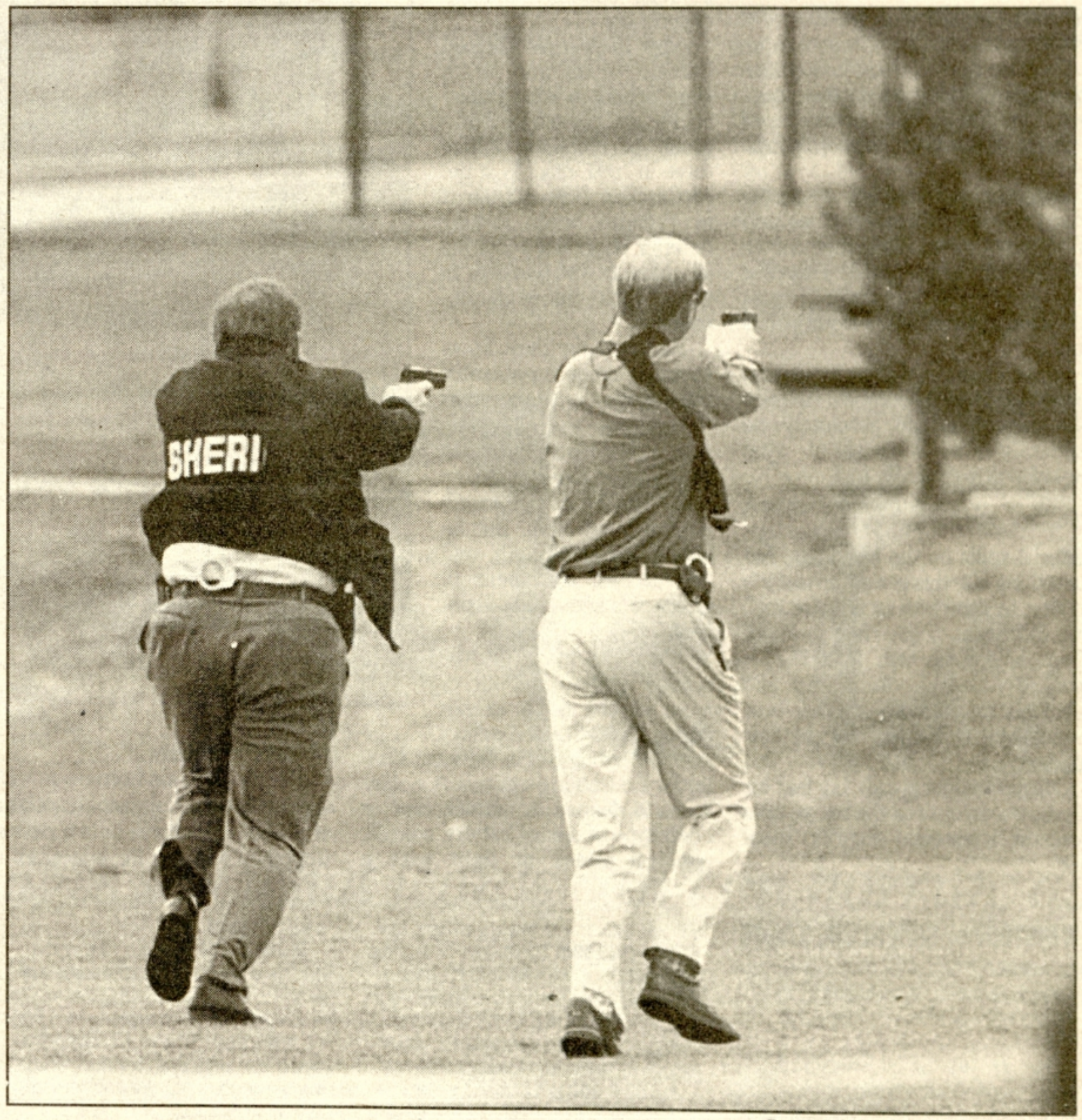
More than two dozen law enforcement agencies including the FBI and four bomb squads from the three agencies including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were dispatched to the high school after gunmen began firing upon students, Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone said.

In addition, six SWAT teams from Jefferson County, Denver, Arapahoe County, Lakewood, Northglenn and Thornton also responded. The National Guard brought an armored personnel carrier.

Fire departments from Jefferson County, Littleton and Castlewood responded. Firetrucks were used to shield the wounded as they were led from the school by SWAT team members.

On May 29, 1998, three heavily armed survivalists stole a flatbed truck near Ignacio and killed Cortez police officer Dale Claxton, 45, after he stopped them.

Police found the body of one of the gunmen, and the other two — Alan "Monte" Pilon of Dove Creek and Jason McVean of Durango — are still at large.



Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer

Officers with guns drawn run toward Columbine High School soon after the first reports were received of Tuesday's shooting. Hundreds of law enforcement personnel descended on the area.

Robot ready to disarm any possible bombs

Remote-control device lets police officers stay out of harm's way

By Gary Massaro
News Staff Writer

SWAT units called for robocop Tuesday after the multiple shootings at Columbine High School.

"It's an old-style bomb robot. It's been around 15-20 years," said Denver Police Lt. Frank Conner. "It's one of the originals."

Denver's SWAT unit assisted the Jefferson County SWAT squad in the search for the shooters.

Cops call for the electronic robot to avoid risking officers' lives, said Northglenn Police Sgt. Daryl Hollingsworth.

The robot is about as big as a child's wagon, only a little wider and riding a little lower on its six wheels. It has a long extension cord.

There's a scissor carriage underneath so the contraption can move up and down. And its pincher "hands" on scissor arms can pick up things.

Cops control the device by remote control. A video camera on the robot allows them to see.

The robot has a water cannon, Conner said.

A burst from the cannon can knock out a bomb.

There's also a shotgun built in, but it's not used to blast suspects, only to knock hinges off doors or to disarm a bomb by shooting it.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

Violence often a silent storm

Experts can't prepare for deaths in schools

By Tustin Amole and Dick Foster

News Staff Writers

It can't happen here. And then it does.

Springfield, Ore.; Fayetteville, Tenn.; Edinboro, Pa.; Jonesboro, Ark.; West Paducah, Ky.

And now Jefferson County.

Kids killing kids. At school. A place to learn becomes a place to die.

Experts say school violence is on the rise. But when you ask why, the answers are almost as varied as the places.

"No one knows who 'those kids,' the kinds of kids who do this, are," said Tim Schlenvogt, president of Colorado Secondary School Principals.

Suspects in Tuesday's slaughter apparently were members of a group of students who called themselves the Trench Coat Mafia. But the motive still isn't clear, and educators fear it won't be the last shooting of its kind.

Police chiefs and sheriffs in four towns affected by school violence said they, too, had absolutely no preparation or warning of what exploded in their midst.

"We're prepared for tornadoes, we're prepared for floods, hazardous material spills on the interstate, but something like this comes up and it's difficult to deal with or prepare for," said Bill Slade, police chief in Pearl, Miss., where, on Oct. 1, 1997, 17-year-old Luke Woodham shot and killed his ex-girlfriend and her best friend on the first anniversary of their breakup.

Copycat incidents are a big fear for educators. Schools in the metro area went on heightened security Tuesday.

"You never know if you might have a kid in your own student body who's having these kinds of thoughts," said Marc Stine, principal at Aurora's Rangeview High School.

Aurora Public Schools has a crisis response plan, "but I think it needs updating," said district spokeswoman Debbie Lynch.

Short of installing metal detectors and searching students at the door, the reality is that little can be done to prevent school violence, experts say.

After 14-year-old Michael Carneal walked into Heath High School in West Paducah, Ky., and opened fired on a group of students, killing three in 1997, officials at the McCracken School District in Paducah began locking exterior doors and requiring all students and teachers to carry district-issued identification.

But nothing they know about would have prevented the tragedy.

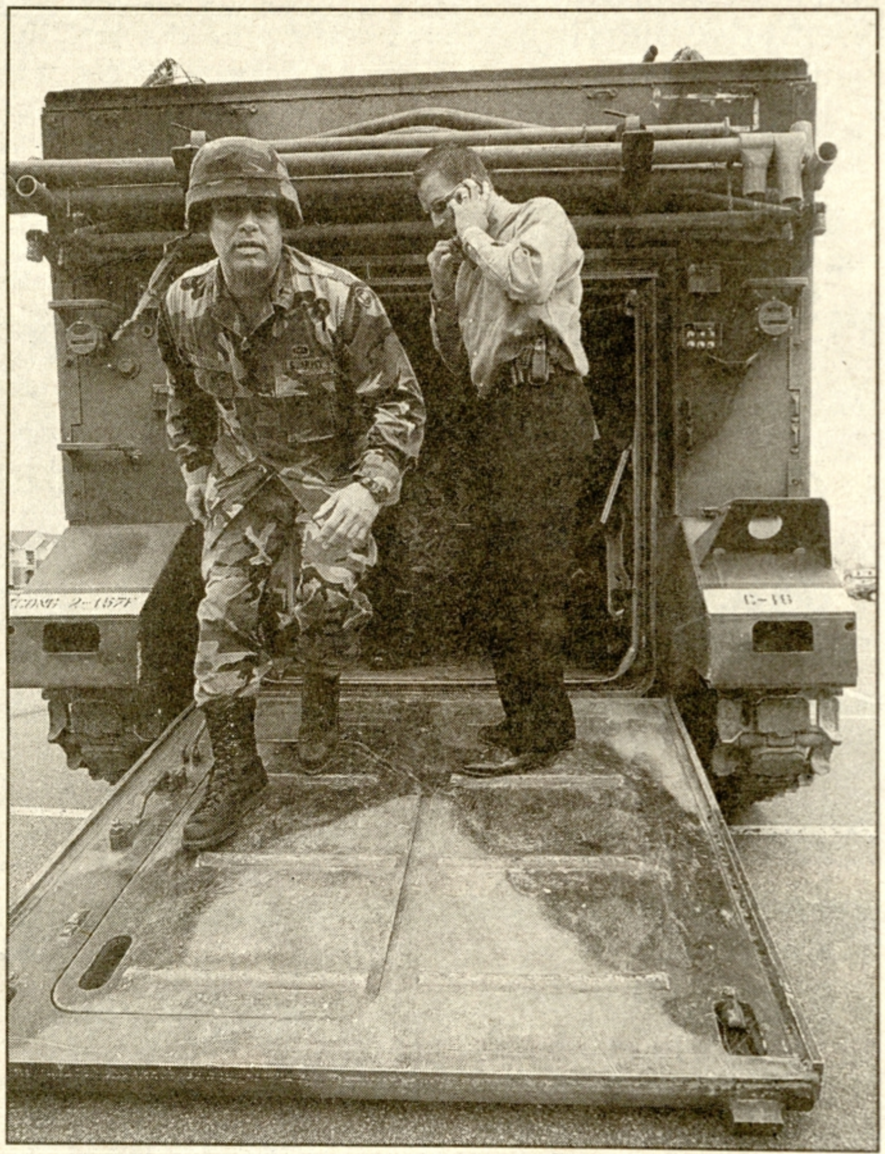
"Michael Carneal came from a good family," Paducah Police Chief Kermit Perdew said. "His father is a prominent attorney here. But he was a troubled youth, and he's at that age where all teen-agers seem to be troubled."

Ten percent of public schools experienced one or more serious violent crimes during the 1996-1997 school year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. A violent crime is defined as murder, rape or other type of sexual battery, suicide, physical attack or fight with a weapon, or robbery..

The problem has become so widespread that the Colorado Association of School Executives held a daylong workshop Monday for educators on crisis response in schools.

"I'm shocked and not shocked," said Schlenvogt, who helped organize the event.

"I just hope it was timely enough."



Dennis Schroeder/News Staff Photographer

Colorado National Guard members deploy an armored vehicle at Columbine High School to get SWAT team members closer to the school.

A HISTORY OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

April 16, 1999: A high school sophomore fires two shotgun blasts in a school hallway in Notus, Idaho. No injuries.

May 21, 1998: A 15-year-old boy is accused of opening fire at a high school in Springfield, Ore. Two teen-agers are fatally shot and more than 20 people are hurt. The teen's parents are found slain at their home. He is awaiting trial.

May 19, 1998: Three days before his graduation, an 18-year-old honor student allegedly opens fire in a parking lot at a high school in Fayetteville, Tenn., killing a classmate who was dating his ex-girlfriend. He is awaiting trial.

April 24, 1998: A science teacher is shot to death in front of students at an eighth-grade graduation dance in Edinboro, Pa., by a 14-year-old student. He is awaiting trial.

March 24, 1998: Four girls and a teacher are killed and 10 people are wounded during a false fire alarm at a middle school in Jonesboro, Ark., when two boys, ages 11 and 13, open fire from the woods. Both are convicted in juvenile court of murder and may be held up to age 21.

Dec. 1, 1997: Three students are killed and five are wounded in a hallway at Heath High School in West Paducah, Ky. A 14-year-old student is arrested. One of the wounded girls remains paralyzed.

Oct. 1, 1997: A 16-year-old boy in Pearl, Miss., is accused of killing his mother and then going to his high school and shooting nine students, two fatally. He is sentenced to life in prison. Two others are awaiting trial on accessory charges.

Cell phones serve as lifelines in crisis

Mobile devices link students with parents, world outside school

By Karen Abbott and Gary Massaro

News Staff Writers

JEFFERSON COUNTY — Cell phones linked students and families with messages of survival Tuesday even as two gunmen carried out a deadly rampage at Columbine High School.

Senior Doug Brace was inside the school but managed to call home long enough to deliver a brief message to his mother, Sheryl Brace. "I'm OK, but I'm hiding," the 18-year-old uttered before hanging up.

As news of the shootings spread, a crowd of parents and students formed outside the Columbine branch of the Jefferson County Library.

A student, his fingers trembling, jabbed the numbers into a cell phone pad. He waited for someone to answer. He wanted to let them know he was OK.

A mom nearby, cell phone to her ear, was sobbing and shaking. Then she blurted, "Oh, God. You're OK."

Callers flooded the network.

AirTouch Cellular reported an increase of 10 times normal usage during the shooting and search.

"Every provider of wireless service was dealing with heavy, heavy traffic," said David Beigie, U S West spokesman. "All afternoon we've tried to reroute traffic from that area for emergency use."

U S West set up temporary phone lines for authorities, and sent technicians to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department to make repairs as needed.

Inside Columbine, 30 students hid in the choir room. They used cell phones to call 911 to tell authorities where they were.

Students and parents who had phones made them available to people who didn't.

John Kent showed up at the Columbine branch library with a cell phone, even after he found out his granddaughter, Mirenda Phaff, a 15-year-old sophomore, was safe.

"Anybody else need to call their parents?" asked Kent, holding his phone in the air.

Staff writers Charley Able and Hector Gutierrez contributed to this report.

Hospitals on high alert for disaster

By Michele Conklin

News Staff Writer

Before it was even known whether there were any victims of the Columbine High School shooting, hospitals across the city sprang into action.

Within minutes of being notified, each hospital had assessed its patient load and notified Denver Health Medical Center — which coordinated the ambulance response — of how many victims it could handle. Some, such as University Hospital, implemented internal disaster codes and called in extra staff and surgeons to prepare for an onslaught of victims.

While the community gasped in shock at the level of violence, hospital employees and doctors fell into a well-rehearsed pattern.

"Hospitals are very used to disaster planning," said Sarah Ellis, spokeswoman for University Hospital. "We spend a lot of time getting ready for this."

By Tuesday afternoon, 20 students had been transported to six hospitals. The victims were dispersed based on the severity of their wounds. The most critically injured were taken to Denver Health and St. Anthony Central, the state's two top-level trauma centers. Others were taken to University, HealthOne Swedish Medical Center, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center and Centura Health Littleton Adventist Medical Center.

"The first thing that happens is that every hospital goes on alert and everyone pitches in," said Peg O'Keefe, spokeswoman for the Colorado Health and Hospital Association.

In cases of numerous victims, hospitals have to deal with more than just caring for the injured. There are also the families, friends, community officials and the media. In the same way a hospital cares for patients based on needs, it responds to these groups in order of importance, O'Keefe said.

"Just like patients are triaged, there is a triage of response," she said. "No. 1 is the patient. They treat the patient as quickly as possible, and they don't let anything get in their way of that. No. 2 is the family, notifying them, getting information to them, helping them understand and deal with what is happening. No. 3 is all the people who care, including the media."

Swedish, a second-level trauma center, treated four of the injured students. While that number is not unusually large, Swedish's location as the closest hospital to the high school caused families, community members and the media to inundate it with calls. The hospital set up a special room just to handle the media, said HealthOne spokeswoman Pat Reilly.

"We've received calls from all across the country," she said.

TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

A city confronts meaning of despair

Bill Johnson

I had never seen so many people cry. I can still see their faces. They were everywhere.

Some cried so hard they convulsed. Old and young. Men, women, girls and boys. They simply could not, would not, stop. I think I understand now the true meaning of despair.

"Lindsey, Lindsey, where are you!" a woman still wearing her house slippers shouted to no one in particular as she wandered the front lawn of an elementary school where the Columbine High parents had gathered.

The lucky ones held their children and cried some more. Others wandered or sat in the grass, their heads almost belly height, weeping.

Susan Cohen hugged her son, Stephen, when he walked up and fell crying into her arms. He'd been in the cafeteria with his sister when the shooting began.

"It was like a stampede," he said of the rush to get out. In the madness, he'd been separated from his sister. "I want to go back," he cried, falling against his mother, who cradled him again.

I first noticed Dennis Babiniec because he had tears in his eyes as he walked zigzags across the Leawood Elementary School lawn. "My son," he said over and over.

His boy, he later explained, had leg surgery only days ago. He was on crutches, his leg in a blue cast. "I don't think he got out," he said, almost whispering. "A friend who was with him said everybody ran when the shooting started. But my son, how was he supposed to get away?"

We were standing on a tall wooden fence in the back yard of a home just across the street from the high school when police officers in riot gear began busting a large hole in it. I think they thought the house was ours.

We'd seen the teen-agers when they ran from the school and across the street. Soon, they were pouring through the hole in the fence. Their eyes were the size of banquet plates. As each one squeezed through, they began crying.

I remember the girl in the blue Nike jacket, the way she gave a high-pitched squeal as she came through the fence.

"I can't breathe!" she wailed as she ran through the yard to a waiting school bus. A police officer ran to her, and covered her nose and mouth with his hand. She was hyperventilating. Inside the bus, she vomited.

Again and again they came through the fence, their legs shaking, their mouths agape, their arms trembling and stretched before them, as if awaiting a hug. Some later said they'd seen the dead, grisly tableaus no child their age should ever see.

Soon, a pair of crutches and a blue cast appeared at the hole. It had been more than three hours since I last saw Dennis Babiniec.

He had Alex encircled in one arm as they made their way down the steps of the elementary school and toward their car. Alex, a 15-year-old freshman, had spent the day hiding with other students in a science lab at the school.

They could hear the gunmen one room over. At one point, they heard a gunshot and saw a bullet come through the wall. "We prayed real hard," Alex said.

"I'm going to take him home," his father finally said, putting his arm around the boy and leading him away.

As they disappeared in the crowd, I was happy for Dennis Babiniec. And then, I looked around.

How many of the others, still wandering the grass, would not — would never again — do what Dennis Babiniec was doing right now?

Bill Johnson's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Rockybj@aol.com or (303) 892-2763.

Question remains: How could this happen here?

Kim Franke-Folstad

Some of them were crying, most of them were scared, but all of them were safe.

The most beautiful sight in all the world, on Tuesday afternoon, was a lineup of hundreds of Columbine High School students on the Leawood Elementary stage.

And then it wasn't.

Because then you had to look at the faces of the parents whose sons and daughters weren't there — the kids who hadn't shown up at the designated meeting place after fleeing the craziness at their school.

And already, you could see the panic setting in. Somebody might still be in there shooting, the parents said. And it might be their children who were hurt. It might be their children who were dying. They might even be dead.

It was early, but it didn't seem as though it could get any worse.

Until it did.

Somebody turned off the TV news. The cellular phones stopped working. The rumors were rampant, but the facts were slow in coming. And so were those missing kids.

Finally, one mom gave up on the "found" lists they'd posted — and the rumors and the cell phones and the cops — and began walking around, slowly, crying and calling, "Michael? Michael? Michael?"

Grown men cried, too, and almost-grown men. Students convulsed and threw up in paper bags. Parents hugged each other and prayed. They cursed the craziness of their world and thanked God when their children appeared back in it.

And, of course, they said what people always say: They didn't think something like this could ever happen here.

"This school is supposed to have such a great reputation," said Candace Haywood, a 15-year-old freshman, as she stood on the stage and looked for her friends. "We thought it had to be some kind of weird joke. Then it was like a stampede — everybody just started running."

"We were just talking about this two weeks ago," said Janet DeSaverio, as she waited, and waited, for her child to walk through the doors of the Leawood gym. "(The kids) said that it could never happen at Columbine." DeSaverio shook her head.

And there's the rub — because, really, would we want them to believe anything else?

School is supposed to be a safe place for a child, perhaps the safest place outside of home. And right now, it appears as though we can't even manage that.

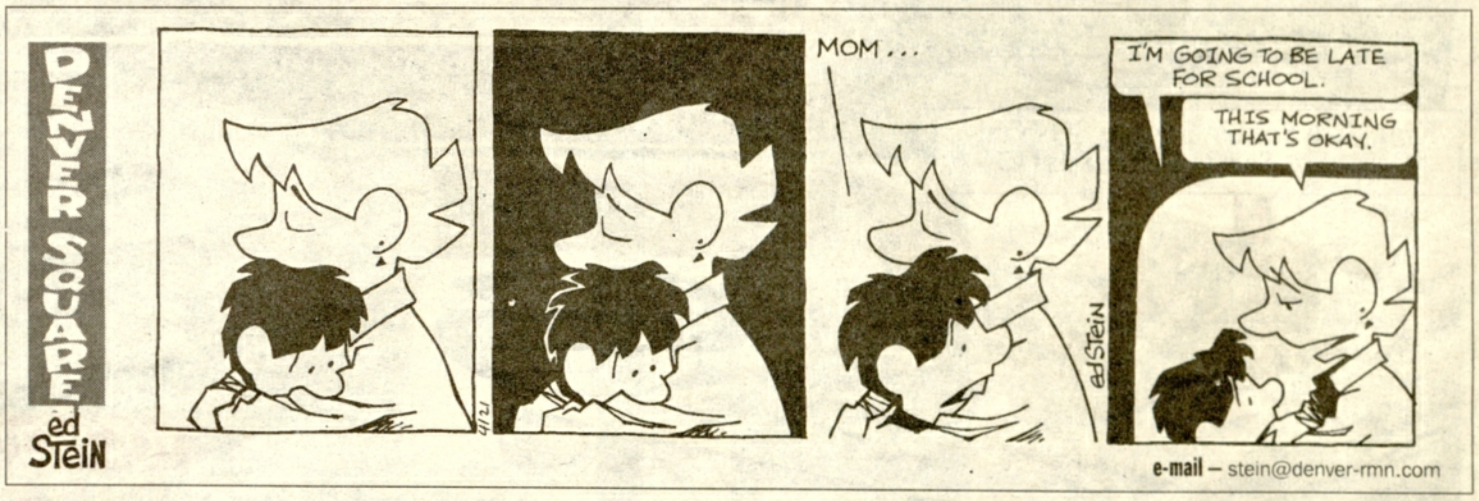
Not even here.

Tuesday, there was a tragedy. Today we'll hear the details: The villains, their "motive," and all the warning signs. And if things go the way they usually do, we'll see plenty of blame but few solutions.

The thing is, Columbine will still be a good school. And Jefferson County will still be a nice place to live. So the question remains: How could this happen here?

Maybe here — where nothing has changed, but everything is suddenly different — is just the right place to start looking for the answer.

Kim Franke-Folstad's column appears Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. (303) 892-5406 or kfranke1@aol.com.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TV images say what words can't on horrific day

Dusty Saunders

On TV

On a day when the screen provided a jarring, unprecedented view of the most violent story in Denver television history, Channel 4's Suzanne McCarroll found the right words: "There are no typical cliches to describe this."

The anchors and reporters from Denver's three network affiliates, searching for descriptions, used familiar phrases like "horrific experience," "'the ultimate tragedy" and "never witnessed anything like this."

Their words never fit the setting.

It was the cameras that cemented the horror that engulfed Columbine High School.

Channel 7's helicopter camera showed law officers pulling a bleeding student to safety as he prepared to jump from a window in the school library, where much of the carnage took place.

The stations provided ongoing looks at students and teachers, hands on their heads, leaving the school and running for safety — refugees far removed from the ugly, familiar sites in Kosovo.

There were numerous scenes of the escaped students huddling outside, sobbing, hugging their classmates.

Scenes at Leawood Elementary School, a bizarre refugee camp, displayed frantic parents seeking their sons and daughters.

Channel 9's Phil Keating found one father nervously asking about his daughter. No word had come about her. Later in the afternoon, Keating found the father, smiling this time, frightened daughter in tow.

If reporters and anchors often had trouble describing the carnage, words flowed freely from students who graphically told what happened. One recounted watching a gunman shoot his friend six times, laughing while doing it.

Amid the numerous, often conflicting reports about the dead and injured, some investigative reporting surfaced.

Channel 9's Ward Lucas found a student who claimed he was a main target of one of the slain gunman, supposedly a member of the student Trench Coat Mafia. Lucas reported the gunman (a student at Columbine) had a personal hate list and a World Wide Web site filled with hate literature, part of it in German.

Channel 4's Brian Maass reported that one of the slain gunmen had been known in school community circles as dangerous, and that letters of complaint and warning had been sent to Jefferson County school officials. No satisfactory response had been given, according to Maass.

The three stations bumped all regular programming and commercial time and early evening network newscasts.

The Fox News Channel used Channel 7 for most of its afternoon national coverage, while CNN used all three Denver stations. MSNBC was plugged into its affiliate, Channel 9.

It didn't take long for cable's "talking heads" to discuss the tragedy. MSNBC was the first, featuring a trauma expert.

Denver's three stations handled the event without going overboard.

But as a viewer who moved around the coverage, there could have been more "recorded earlier" screen messages to cut down on some of the confusion brought about by the fast-changing events.

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Sale of Blue Cross Blue Shield gets green light

By John Sanko
News Capitol Bureau

Legislation that would clear away an obstacle to the sale of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Colorado to an Indiana-based mutual company won preliminary support in the Senate Tuesday.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Blickensderfer, R-Englewood, said SB 224 merely removed a prohibition that was included in 1996 legislation that allowed the conversion of nonprofit health insurance and related companies to profit-making.

He said the original bill restricted outside corporations or interests from buying more than 10 percent of the combined voting power of the group now controlling the nonprofit agency.

It was included in the law than to prevent a hostile takeover by an outside firm, Blickensderfer said, but he noted, "The 10 percent limitation is no longer needed."

Actually, it would interfere with current efforts to sell Blue Cross Blue Shield of Colorado to Anthem Inc. of Indianapolis, which has agreed to pay a Colorado charitable foundation at least $140 million when it buys the company.

If and when the sale is completed, Blue Cross members will get insurance from Anthem.

Lawmakers did not discuss the merits of the sale itself, but approved the bill after Sen. Dottie Wham, R-Denver, received assurances that all sides involved had participated in the discussions.

Sen. Ed Perlmutter, D-Wheat Ridge, noted that he had expressed concern about the 10 percent restriction when the original bill was debated three years ago.

"I only want to say I told you so," Perlmutter said.

The bill will be up for a final vote today before it goes to the House for further action.

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Man arrested in Laramie death

Associated Press

LARAMIE — A man has been arrested on a murder charge in the death of the mother of a man who took part in the beating death of gay college student Matthew Shepard, authorities said Monday.

Arrested in the killing was Dennis L. Menefee Jr., 28, of Hastings, Fla., who was residing in Laramie at the time of Cindy Lee Dixon's death in January, according to police.

There was no connection between Dixon's death from hypothermia and Shepard's, Albany County Sheriff Jim Pond said in a statement.

Dixon, 40, of Laramie was found dead Jan. 3 along a snow-covered rural road north of Laramie. Police did not provide details of Menefee's alleged role in the death. Pond could not be reached for comment.

Dixon was the mother of Russell Henderson, 21, who pleaded guilty to murder and kidnapping in the October death of Shepard.

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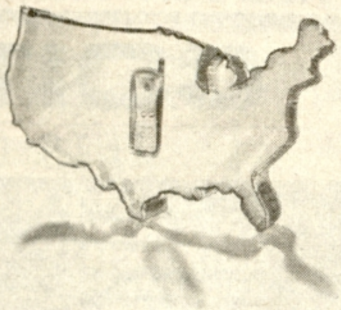

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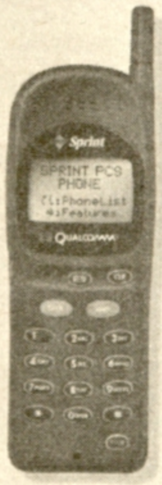

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Jury indicts boy in murder of teen girl two years ago

Associated Press

PUEBLO — A grand jury has indicted a teen-ager on a first-degree murder charge in the strangling of 15-year-old Emily Grubbs, whose body was found along the Arkansas River more than two years ago.

Adam Mark Thompson, 17, was arrested at his home Monday, a few hours after the indictment was handed up.

Deputy Chief Charlene Graham, head of investigations for the Pueblo police, said it had been frustrating when it was rumored that Thompson was the primary suspect in the case and an arrest was expected but didn't immediately happen.

"Just because people say, 'That's who did it,' is not enough. Our job is to seek the facts and that's what we do," she said. "It took us awhile to get there, but we didn't give up."

District Attorney Gus Sandstrom took the case to the grand jury several weeks ago.

According to court records, more than 100 witnesses were called to testify in front of the grand jury. The witnesses included police officers, Colorado Bureau of Investigation agents, investigators from Sandstrom's office and medical personnel.

In a motion filed Monday in District Court, Sandstrom said Thompson would be charged as an adult and should be held in county jail instead of the Pueblo Youth Center. The motion was granted and Thompson was being held in county jail without bail.

Emily's mother, Laurel Grubbs, was surprised and saddened by the news of Thompson's arrest.

"That's who they originally went after. I hope they are right," she said from the family's Tucson, Ariz., home. "I feel so bad for his family."

Laurel Grubbs said the news did not give her a sense of satisfaction. She said she found it sad that Emily's life was taken and that the lives of so many others were ruined or disrupted.

The lengthy investigation began Jan. 26, 1997, when Emily's partly clothed body was found by boys fishing along the river.

An autopsy revealed that Emily died from strangulation by ligature, meaning a small rope, cord, narrow belt or other such common item was used to kill her.

The evening before her disappearance, Emily's father dropped her off at the now-closed Pueblo Amusement Center and planned to pick her up between 10 and 11 p.m., whenever she phoned.

When she failed to call, Elmer and Laurie Grubbs conducted their own overnight search, before finally turning to police. Her body was found at 1:30 p.m.

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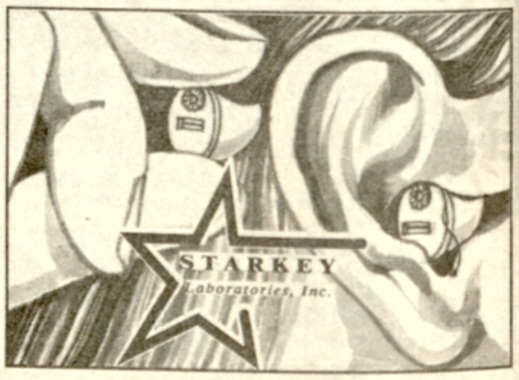

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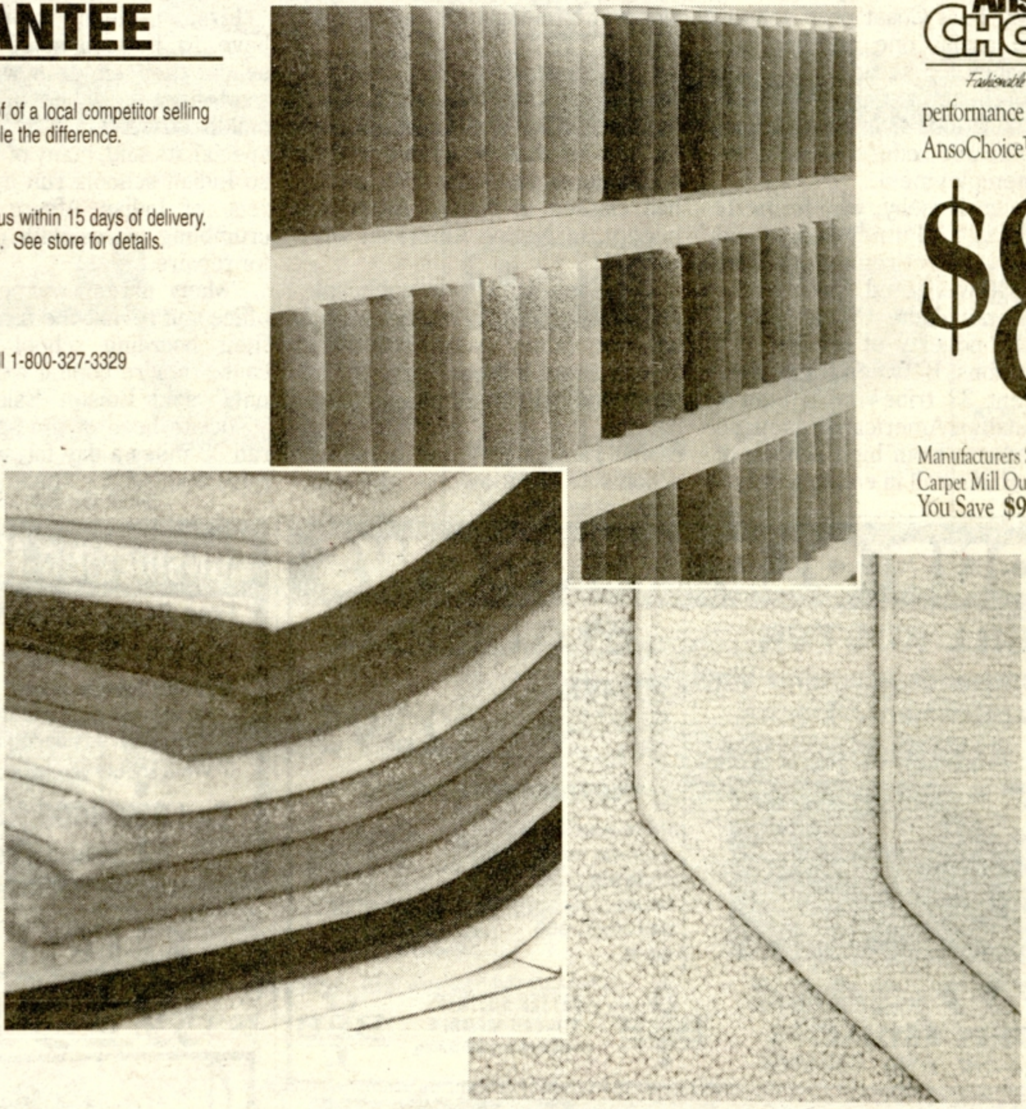

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Indian school graduating 1st class — all college bound

By Lynda Gorov
The Boston Globe

ROWE, N.M. — The memories are so vivid, so painful, that many of the high school seniors speak of them as if they were their own.

The students recall the chopped-off braids of their ancestors and the beatings they received for speaking their own languages. The bitter taste of the English names assigned to new students. Surviving until graduation was a feat, college all but an impossibility.

As Wizipan Garriott, a 19-year-old Lakota, explained, "I guess" white people "didn't want us to succeed, and I guess we didn't expect to."

Today, more than a century after the first federal boarding school for Indians was founded, success is being celebrated on a campus tucked away in the piney hills 45 miles southeast of Santa Fe. The Native American Preparatory School is about to graduate its first class, and each of the 22 seniors is college bound. So far, not a single rejection letter has arrived.

As acceptances roll in at the only privately funded school for American Indians, the seniors must decide between Occidental and Grinnell, Antioch and Amherst. Several are waiting to hear from Stanford, Dartmouth and Vassar. Wizipan, who felt unprepared for the Ivy League after graduating from a reservation school in South Dakota, spent a year readying himself in Rowe. In the fall, the aspiring architect will head to Yale, where, he said, he will be the first student there schooled on a reservation.

"My other school was a typical reservation school," Wizipan said, as he showed off a model of the tool shed and greenhouse he designed as part of his hands-on coursework. "How can I be diplomatic but honest without cutting it down? The expectations are just higher here. The whole goal is completely different."

At Native American Prep, one central goal is to give students the book learning and life experience necessary to succeed in college, and the confidence to know that they can. Another is to begin building a network of graduates to rival any East Coast prep school, able to assist one another and their tribes for decades to come. Many of the teen-agers vow to use their educations to improve reservation life and reduce massive Indian unemployment.

As Sven Huseby, who formerly ran Vermont's Putney School and came out of retirement to take over in Rowe, noted, many of the 71 students come to the school from the poverty of the nation's reservations. Between them, they represent 33 tribes in 11 states. About half of American Indians do not graduate from high school; of those who enroll in college, only a tiny percentage finish. Even at Native American Prep, more than half of the freshmen enrolled in 1995 have since left the school.

"The kids know that if they do well" colleges will "want more of them," said Whitney Laughlin, the campus's college counselor. "If they don't, they won't. They know they're ambassadors for the school and for Native Americans. They're pioneers, and they're ready."

For four years now, the students have prepared themselves in small classrooms where about half of the faculty is also Indian. Students study the academic core — English, math, and science, for example — as well as extras that emphasize their own tribal histories and traditions. Traditional prayers, songs, and medicines are not only allowed, they are taught, along with Indian authors and folklore.

"The contrast between what I experienced and they experience is huge," said John Anthony Reyna, who teaches world cultures to sophomores part time. "We never had classes in Native American history, in Native American anything."

Yet even with four applicants for every acceptance, the school has not gained easy acceptance among some Indians. Despite the newfound wealth of many tribal nations that have ventured into casino gambling — and launched schools of their own — the vast majority of the prep school's $2 million or so annual budget comes from white sources such as foundations, corporations or individuals.

Actor Val Kilmer, who lives nearby, made a film about the school that is used for fund-raising, and he recently dropped off bags and boxes of used clothing for the youths.

Only two students — one a white teen-ager from Santa Fe who applied and had to be accepted under the school's admission guidelines — pay the full, $24,000-a-year tuition. The others typically pay about $900, with parents able to work off those payments by helping out on the sprawling campus, where modest dormitories and classrooms are designed to fit into their wooded surroundings.

First, though, some parents have to be convinced that the school their children want to attend is not the school of their own childhoods. Even today, education specialists said, many of the 180 or so Indian schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs are dim, crumbling places with no money for repairs.

"Many parents come into my office and revisit the nightmare of their boarding school days because they're hoping we're different," said Edison Eskeets, the associate head of the school who ran 38 miles a day for six days to raise $90,000 for student scholarships. "They were asked not to speak native languages, not to bring their native traditions with them."

Nikke Nez, one of the seniors who regularly dashes off opinion pieces to a New Mexico newspaper, felt shut out in both the white world and the Indian world until she arrived at Native American Prep. Part white, part Navajo, she said she was ridiculed for her heritage at both a public school she attended and a federally funded Indian school.

"What I knew of my culture was what the media fed to me," said Nez, who plans to be an ethnobotanist. "Even at the Indian school, I was like, 'Why do I want to be an Indian if everyone rejects me?' I've learned a lot about me here . . . . But as far as giving back to 'my people,' that's a cliche. They didn't give anything to me. I'm giving back to this school."

The rigidity associated with many prep schools is absent at Native American Prep. At a recent "morning gathering," students lined the wall to hear announcements, read poetry, and thank the staff for the Indian fry bread they had feasted on that Friday night.

"This is the push I needed," said Jolene Abeita, 18, a senior who has been accepted by nine schools so far. "I never even thought about college before I came here. I'm expecting it to be hard, but now I'm used to hard. I'm ready, and I'm going."

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Mom will be tried in daughter's bathtub death

Woman was on phone, detective tells judge

By Sue Lindsay
News Staff Writer

A young Denver mother who talked on the telephone while her infant daughter drowned in the bathtub was bound over for trial Tuesday on charges of child abuse resulting in death.

Tiffany Hickman, 21, is accused of negligence in the Jan. 31 death of 3-month-old Precious Hickman.

Hickman was bathing her children and planned to take them to a Super Bowl party, Detective David Neil told Denver District Judge Robert Patterson.

She told police that she first placed her 19-month-old son, Brayshun Bowman, in the tub, which contained about 4 inches of water. Then she placed Precious in a plastic baby bathtub that she placed in the bathtub with Brayshun.

Hickman said she was talking on the phone while bathing the children and got into an argument with Brayshun's father about money. She said she left the bathroom briefly to get diapers from a hall closet and when she returned, Precious was floating in the tub face down.

Hickman estimated that her phone conversation lasted only about 5 minutes, but others said it lasted as long as 30 minutes, Neil said.

Hickman had been cited three times for leaving her children unattended. Two days before Precious' death, Hickman had pleaded guilty to a charge of "wronging a minor." In that case, she was accused of leaving her children unattended for nearly two hours while she was at another apartment in her building talking on the phone.

She was placed on a year's probation.

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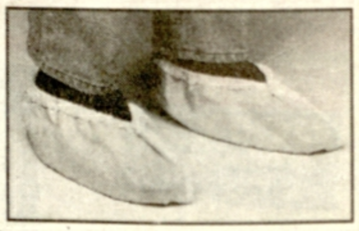

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METRO NEWS BRIEFING

Clinton to speak at Academy

WASHINGTON — President Clinton will travel to Colorado Springs on June 2 to deliver the commencement address at the Air Force Academy, the White House announced Tuesday.

Activist to speak at East High

Ernest Green, one of the first blacks to integrate Little Rock, Ark., schools in 1957, will speak at East High School's Community Forum at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Green was among the "Little Rock Nine," the first to attend school under the Supreme Court's historic 1954 ruling that barred segregation. They needed federal help to enroll in Central High School. Green was the first black graduate.

Green is now an investment banker, and the Walt Disney Corp. made a movie of his life, *The Ernest Green Story.*

Information: (303) 894-8300. The school is at 1545 Detroit St.

Man gets 10 years in slaying

A man was sentenced to 10 years in prison Tuesday in a 21-year-old case involving the slaying of a Denver drug dealer.

Mark Prieur pleaded guilty to second-degree murder. He and his brother, Randy Bird, were charged with first-degree murder in the Oct. 30, 1977, stabbing of Isiah R. "Ike" Hampton, 39.

Bird, who will be sentenced next week, also pleaded guilty to accessory to murder.

The case languished until Bird's teen-age son went to authorities.

Museum free on Saturday

Admission to the Denver Museum of Natural History and Gates Planetarium will be free Saturday to kick off National Science and Technology Week.

This year's theme, "Find Out Why," encourages families to explore science and technology in everyday life.

News staff and wire reports

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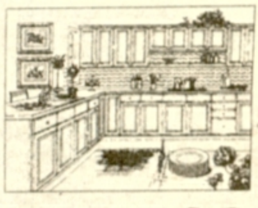

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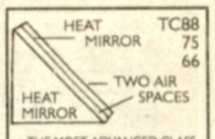

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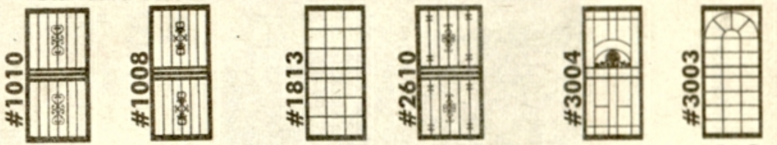

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Dunstan team captures state science title

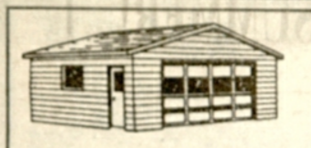
News Staff

GOLDEN — Dunstan Middle School's student science team won first place Saturday in the Colorado State Science Olympiad.

The team of 15 students from the Lakewood school earned six gold, one silver and four bronze medals to rise above the top 25 middle and junior high schools in the statewide competition at the Colorado School of Mines.

"The team demonstrated character and commitment. Winners are able to bounce back from setbacks, and this bunch proved they have the right stuff," said Bruce Hogue, Dunstan's head coach.

The Dunstan team is now preparing to represent Colorado at the National Science Olympiad in a month in Chicago.



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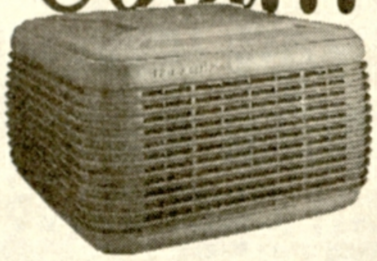

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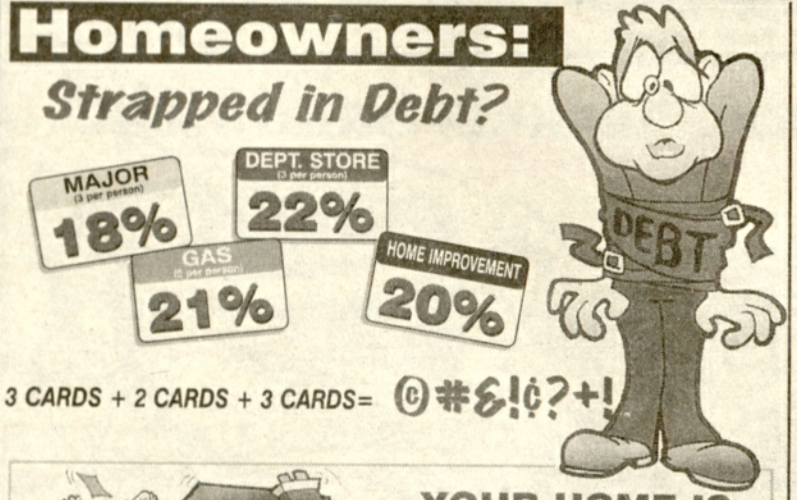

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A leading Toyota Dealer located in Golden is over-stocked with inventory and will be selling new and used cars and trucks for as low as sixty-nine dollars this Thursday, April 22nd and Friday, April 23rd.

Denver, CO — Stevinson Toyota has announced its plans to have a $69 Minimum Bid New and Used Car & Truck Sale™, called "Take-It or Leave-It Bid Sale" on Thursday and Friday, April 22 and 23, 1999.

Dan Ryan, President of Caliber Automotive Liquidators, has been authorized to conduct this "Take-It or Leave-It Bid Sale" at Stevinson Toyota West due to the fact that they have amassed hundreds of new vehicles, demos, rentals, repos, factory demos and aged inventory. They must liquidate everything, regardless of profit or loss, rather than send it to a dealer auction.

Ryan says, "It's as easy as 1-2-3! Find a car, make a bid (minimum $69, of course) and the dealer accepts it or keeps it — the car, that is. All vehicles will be sold on a first come, first serve basis with absolutely no pressure, no back and forth, and no wasted time."

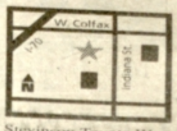
During this $69 "Take-It or Leave-It Bid Sale", most new and used cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles will be sold for thousands of dollars below the original price due to a record number of low mileage lease returns that the dealership must now sell. "That fact," Ryan continued, "when combined with robust first quarter retail sales, has resulted in a greatly expanded new and used car, truck, van and sport utility inventory."

This is a win-win situation for the dealer and the customer. It allows the dealer to reduce his inventory and negate the costs associated with sending the vehicle to dealer auctions. Customers can expect the prices to be very close to, and in some cases below, public auction pricing without any auction fee. Values should be substantial because the sale is conducted right on Stevinson Toyota West's existing lot. There are no transportation costs, computers, personnel, etc. involved in auction sales. So, Stevinson Toyota West is passing on the savings to their customers.

"Further," Ryan states, "during this event, everybody can get a car they want for a great price without anyone telling them they have to pay more because of their credit situation." If you've had credit problems in the past and would like to take delivery, then bring the following: check book, paycheck stub, title, and utility bill. Don't forget to call your bank and know what the payoff balance is of your trade-in.

All vehicles will be on display in the secured area at Stevinson Toyota West, 15000 West Colfax Avenue, Golden, CO. This sale is for two days only - rain or shine - on Thursday and Friday, April 22 and 23, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Any questions can be directed to 303-277-0550 at Stevinson Toyota West.

*Price does not include tax, license, D&H 299.50 or title fees. Must be 18 or more years old and have a valid driver's license. At least 4 vehicles will be at this price. Vehicles subject to prior sale.



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City moves to clean up most-cited restaurant

Las Palmeras II plans to fight health citations

By Kevin Flynn
News Staff Writer

Denver health inspectors Tuesday issued a summons to the operator of Las Palmeras II restaurant for three critical violations, and the restaurant has hired a consultant to help clean up problems.

But the city hasn't moved to shut down the restaurant at 4745 Federal Blvd., which racked up 70 critical health violations in two years, according to inspection reports.

Las Palmeras II, Denver's most-cited restaurant for violations plans to fight the allegations, consultant Mark Saiz said.

Saiz said he has found "a number of discrepancies" in the inspection reports. He said he has "found the restaurant to be in pretty good condition."

Owner Luis Ochoa was issued a complaint and summons to Denver County Court next week after city restaurant inspector Julia Ramsay found Las Palmeras II failed to maintain refrigeration temperatures, failed to quickly reheat food and failed to prevent cross-contamination of foods.

"They've been told about these problems many times and they've not fixed them," said Theresa Donahue, manager of the Department of Environmental Health.

"We're still talking with the city attorney's office to determine what other action we might take, whether to try to revoke or suspend their license," Donahue said.

Saiz said Ochoa hired him to help Las Palmeras II solve the problems, but he also said it isn't as dire as inspectors say.

"We're prepared to appear in court with evidence to show that the city of Denver can rest pretty comfortably eating in our restaurant," Saiz said. "The Denver community is not at risk."

Donahue said the city in the past has been reluctant to close a business if it is trying to make improvements.

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CU centrifuge to test earthen dams

University scientists will use machine to check safety of nation's dams in stability study

By Kevin McCullen
News Staff Writer

BOULDER — A spin around one of the world's largest centrifuges may help scientists determine the safety of the nation's earthen dams.

By spinning a scale-model earthen dam in the payload box of the centrifuge, University of Colorado researchers hope to observe the impact of sinkholes on dams, said Hon-Yim Ko, chairman of CU's civil, environmental and architectural engineering departments.

The federal Bureau of Reclamation, which is responsible for oversight of the dams, contracted with CU to do the stability study in its decade-old centrifuge. The centrifuge, in the basement of the engineering complex on the Boulder campus, is among the largest in the world, Ko said.

The bureau wants to know how earthen dams might behave if they develop a sinkhole, Ko said. "It's not that they are expecting any problems," he said.

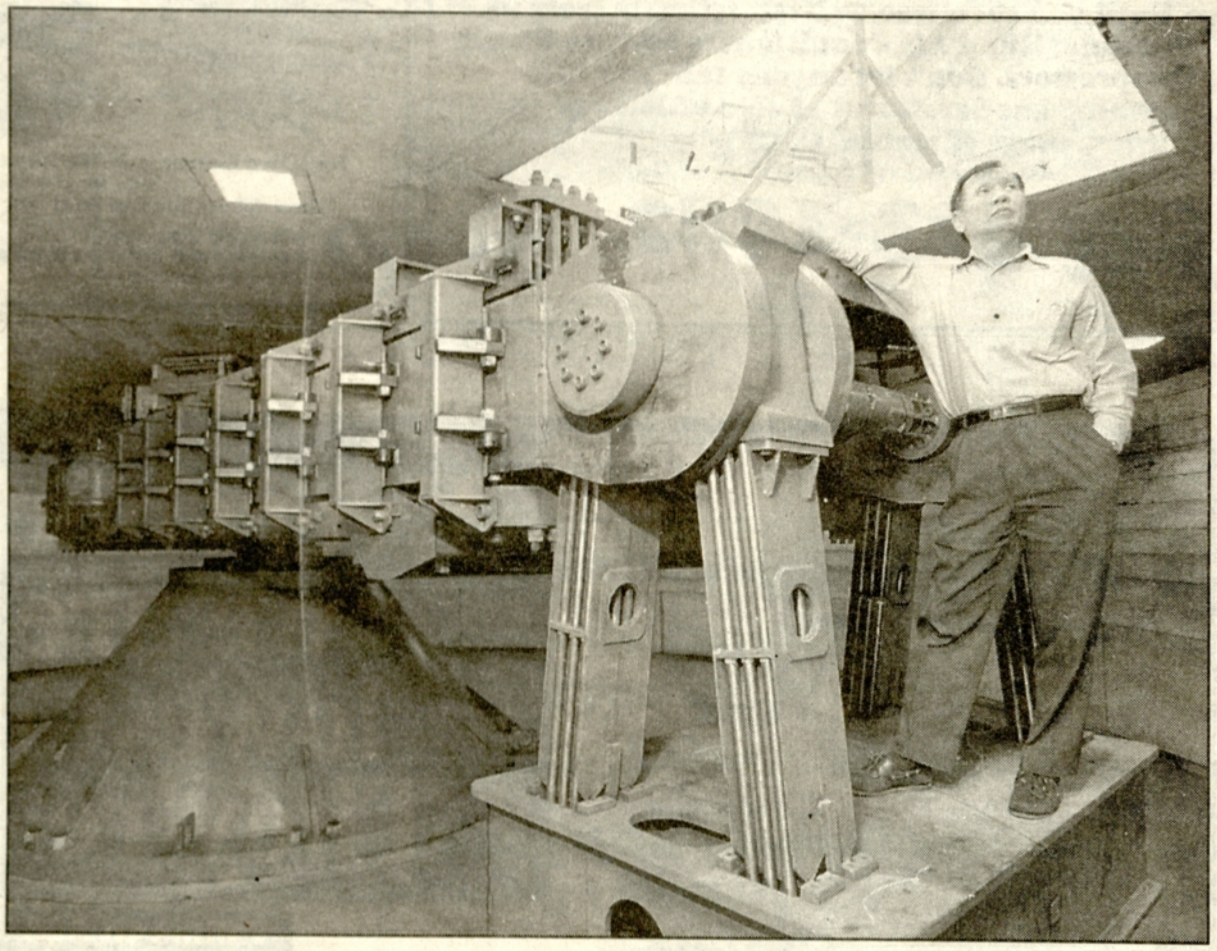
A CU team will try to create a sinkhole in a scale-model earthen dam and observe how it migrates to the dam's surface. The scale-model, 2-ton dam will be put in the payload compartment of the centrifuge, which is powerful enough to spin two tons of material at 200 times gravity.

Ko said up to 15 tests will be conducted in the centifuge. By observing the spinning of the scale-model dam, scientists can use the forces of gravity to simulate the behavior of dams under stress.

The effect is similar to filling a bucket with water and swirling it in circles.

The force inside the centrifuge is enough to create gravity forces far more powerful than a human being could withstand, Ko said.

Researchers have used the centrifuge over the past decade for a range of studies, from observing the movement of large ship anchors on an ocean floor to the impact of strong winds on pipelines.



Steven R. Nickerson/News Staff Photographer

Hon-Yim Ko, chairman of the University of Colorado's civil, environmental and architectural engineering departments, poses with a centrifuge that will be used to test 2-ton earthen dam models.

Senator sees no shame in being 'Mexican'

By John Sanko
News Capitol Bureau

Sen. Bob Martinez, D-Commerce City, doesn't like what an Aurora baseball coach said, but he scoffed Tuesday at suggestions that it's an insult to be called a Mexican.

It's no worse, he said, than calling a person with Italian heritage an Italian.

Martinez made the comments on the Senate floor as the result of an incident involving Aurora Central High School baseball coach Bill Hunter, who was given a written reprimand for comments reported in a suburban newspaper, the *Aurora Sun Sentinel*.

The article quoted Hunter as saying most of the school's students are "Mexicans" and "all they want to do is hang out in the parking lot with their gangs."

Martinez said he disagrees strongly with the tone of the remarks, but he just wanted his colleagues to know that it was no insult to be called a Mexican.

He said Hispanics were people who came from Spanish-speaking areas, but in Colorado, 85 percent of Hispanics happen to be Mexican-American "and proud of it."

Highlands Ranch delays incorporation ballot issue

Group wants more time to keep public informed

News Staff

Highlands Ranch will wait at least another year for a cityhood vote.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

The committee studying incorporation for a potential city of 65,000 people decided Tuesday to wait until November 2000 before putting the issue on the ballot, said Greg Bloom of the Highlands Ranch Community Information Committee.

Despite early public information efforts, the committee was bombarded with questions and criticism. "We just realized we're not doing a great job of education," Bloom said.

"This will give us time to get everything in order."

Incorporation of the subdivision in northern Douglas County has been studied for seven years.

Last year revenue projections indicated the tax base could support a city.

A feasibility study commission showed the area could support a city with an annual budget of $13.7 million.

Critics challenged the boundaries, which extended from Santa Fe Drive on the southwest to Interstate 25 on the southeast, including large rural properties.

The Highlands Ranch Community Association was criticized for spending $20,000 to study the issue.

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Senate OKs bill to set up rules for zoning disputes

By John Sanko

News Capitol Bureau

Property owners would find it easier to fight city hall under a bill by a Lakewood lawmaker that won final approval on a 19-16 Senate vote Tuesday and now moves to the House.

Minority Democrats attacked SB 218 as another assault on local government, but supporters said it only put into the statutes what already has been ordered by Colorado courts and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The bill sets up procedures to be followed during zoning disputes. And it is designed to make sure that cities do not make exorbitant demands for money or property to approve zoning changes.

"I worked with local government on this bill," insisted Sen. Norma Anderson, R-Lakewood. "I worked with those entities very carefully because, yes, we should not destroy all of local control."

In addition to setting up a process for disputes, the bill shifts the burden to local government to prove in court the necessity for requiring that a property owner pay money or dedicate land for a park, school or other need to get a zoning request.

Colorado Counties Inc. supported the bill, Anderson said, while the Colorado Municipal League took a neutral position.

"We think it's simply a restatement of the current law and doesn't unduly restrict us," said league spokesman Sam Mamet.

The bill is similar to measures introduced in previous sessions, including one that was vetoed by former Gov. Roy Romer.

Sen. Doug Linkhart, D-Denver, led the attack on the bill, describing it as another of many attempts by legislators this year to weaken local control — whether it's guns or private property rights.

"We need to be careful about attacking local control," Linkhart said. "Yesterday I think I heard you say it was for the little guy and protecting the little guy against local government action.

"My question is who is going to protect local government from the state. They need protection, too, because year after year we're coming down here enacting more laws against local government."

Sen. Terry Phillips, D-Louisville, warned the bill would take away from local government "the ability to take away the long-range planning."

He said the legislation would "lengthen the process, confuse the issue and do nothing to remedy the problems that Colorado faces with the kind of growth that the metro area particularly and all parts of the state are going to be experiencing."

Sen. Mark Hillman, R-Burlington, scolded critics of the bill, saying it was time to "disabuse ourselves of this notion that government, be it local or state, has rights."

"Government has power. People have rights. And if the choice is between local governmental power and individual rights, including the right to utilize your property, then it is our responsibility to come down on the side of the fundamental right of the people."

But Linkhart recalled earlier this session that Hillman appeared to take the opposite side when he gave county commissioners veto power over the rights of private property owners to relocate prairie dogs or other destructive rodents on their land.

"Senator Hillman, I'm glad you came down because when it was prairie dogs, the individual property owner didn't have any rights," Linkhart said.

"When that property owner wanted to develop that property and use it for prairie dogs, it was 'let's go to the aid of local government and take away that property owner's rights to have prairie dogs on the property.' "

Skaggs to teach in CU leadership program

News Staff

BOULDER — Former Rep. David Skaggs will teach freshmen in a new leadership program at the University of Colorado this fall.

Skaggs will team with Richard Kraft, an award-winning education professor and former vice chairman of the State Board of Education, to teach "Introduction to Leadership."

The 50 to 75 students in the Chancellor's Leadership Residential Program will live together on a few floors in a Williams Village residence hall.

The new program is designed to develop civic leaders in politics, medicine, religion, the military, engineering, journalism, business and education, Kraft said.

"Leadership must not just be studied but must be acted on experientially," Kraft said. "When given the chance, young adults are capable of playing truly extraordinary leadership roles."

Skaggs retired from Congress in January, after serving five terms as the representative of Colorado's 2nd District. He lives in Boulder and is executive director of the Aspen Institute, a nonprofit group dedicated to cleaning the environment through conservation.

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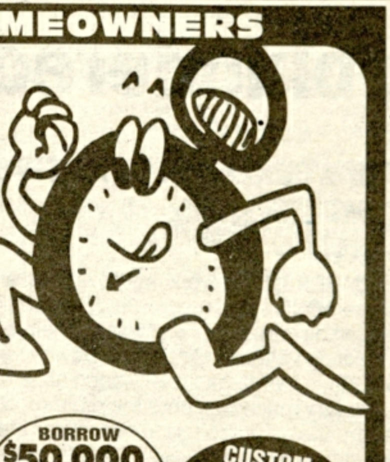
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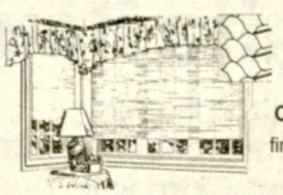
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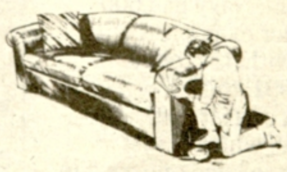

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U.S. short on forces covering the Pacific

By Laura Myers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military, stretched thin following a post-Cold War downsizing, is feeling the pinch. Because of dual defense needs in Kosovo and Iraq, no aircraft carrier is plying the Pacific. Instead, Air Force planes there are on alert for any trouble.

The gap in carrier coverage for the Pacific could last until the fall, when the USS Constellation is to arrive, defense officials said.

The USS Kitty Hawk that was in the Pacific was ordered to the Persian Gulf on April 3 to free the USS Theodore Roosevelt to join the NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia. The Roosevelt arrived in the Adriatic Sea on April 5.

Now, the Pentagon again is scrambling U.S. military assets around the globe to meet a NATO request for 300 more U.S. warplanes for Kosovo. That could mean adding a second carrier, sending the USS Enterprise and its 75 aircraft — which just completed a six-month Gulf deployment — to the Aegean Sea instead of home, U.S. defense officials said. The Enterprise reached the Mediterranean on Tuesday.

The Pentagon also is considering basing new planes in Turkey and Hungary, both NATO members, which could eliminate the need for a second carrier. Bulgaria and Romania on Tuesday gave NATO permission to use their air space.

A senior defense official, describing the search for resources, said the U.S. military's "elasticity" is reduced since the Cold War when the Navy had 600 ships, for example, compared with 324 today.

In 1991, the Navy had 15 aircraft carriers plus one reserve, which is just enough to keep one each in the three places the Pentagon would like to protect 365 days a year — the Gulf, the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

But the Navy has had just 12 aircraft carriers since 1994, which means there are always gaps when the regions go without.

NATO warplanes bomb building of Milosevic's ruling party office

Alliance accuses Serbs of ousting Albanians from province's hills

By George Jahn

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO jets struck a Belgrade high-rise building holding the offices of Slobodan Milosevic's ruling party early Wednesday, and the alliance accused Serbian forces of flushing out ethnic Albanians hiding in the province's hills.

The attack touched off a huge fire in the building in New Belgrade, across the Sava River from the heart of the capital. Local media said up to 20 people might have been inside.

Media reports said at least three missiles struck the 20-story structure, known as the Business Center Usce, which houses several offices owned by the Yugoslav president's Socialist Party.

The privately owned broadcasters TV Pink and BK, whose headquarters were also in the building, were knocked off the air. Both stations are owned by people close to the authorities.

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said Serbian military and paramilitary forces were shelling hills where ethnic Albanians had fled, marching the refugees on roads and putting them on trains to the border, then closing the frontier to them.

He told reporters at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, that the alliance was investigating reports of 700 ethnic Albanian boys as young as 14 being used either as "human shields or as blood banks for Serb casualties."

Pier Paolo Cito/Associated Press

Arieta Hajdiri, 16, an ethnic Albanian from a village in Kosovo, cries as she recalls the death of her father Tuesday as her mother, Ajman, 45, watches. They said the father was shot by Yugoslav forces.

Meanwhile, *The Boston Globe* reported that the Yugoslav military has moved into the northeast, Muslim region of the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, leading to fears that the "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo could spill over the border.

Six civilians — including at least one woman and a 13-year-old boy — were killed Sunday night in the area around the Muslim municipality of Rozaj by Yugoslav army soldiers or paramilitary soldiers, Rozaj Mayor Nusret Kalac said in an interview.

"These were ethnic Albanians killed by the Yugoslav army," Kalac said. "The situation is very serious."

The Serbian news agency Beta said Yugoslav soldiers killed four ethnic Albanians in a firefight near Rozaj Sunday night but claimed the four were members of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army.

White House blundered, GOP lawmakers say

Republicans make it clear they don't support 'Clinton-Gore war'

By Lance Gay

Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — Some Republicans are branding the Kosovo conflict the "Clinton-Gore war," and blame the White House for what they consider military blunders that are failing to achieve any of the goals set out a month ago.

While Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday that NATO "is on the right track," Republican leaders said they found exactly the opposite on a weekend tour of the Balkans.

In increasingly strident attacks, key Republicans are making it clear they don't support the NATO military campaign, which they say has increased Serbia's strongman Slobodan Milosevic's power but has failed to stop the "ethnic cleansing."

"This isn't the war that we should be in," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, adding that no one he talked to on the Balkans tour was able to say how the campaign against Milosevic will end.

"The stubbornness of the State Department got us into a war that I don't know how to get out of," said Stevens, who is in charge of shepherding through Congress Clinton's request for an additional $6 billion for Kosovo operations.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., on Tuesday introduced a resolution that would give Clinton broad authority to use "all necessary force" in Yugoslavia to end the campaign. "I hope this resolution would encourage the administration and our allies to find the courage and resolve to prosecute this war in the manner most likely to result in its early end," McCain said.

In the House, Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Republican leader Dick Armey of Texas charged that the military problems in Kosovo can be traced to Clinton administration policies that cut Pentagon spending.

AID WORKERS HELD AS SPIES ARE OK

CANBERRA, Australia — Two Australian aid workers held as spies in Yugoslavia are in good shape and adequately fed, an Australian official said Tuesday.

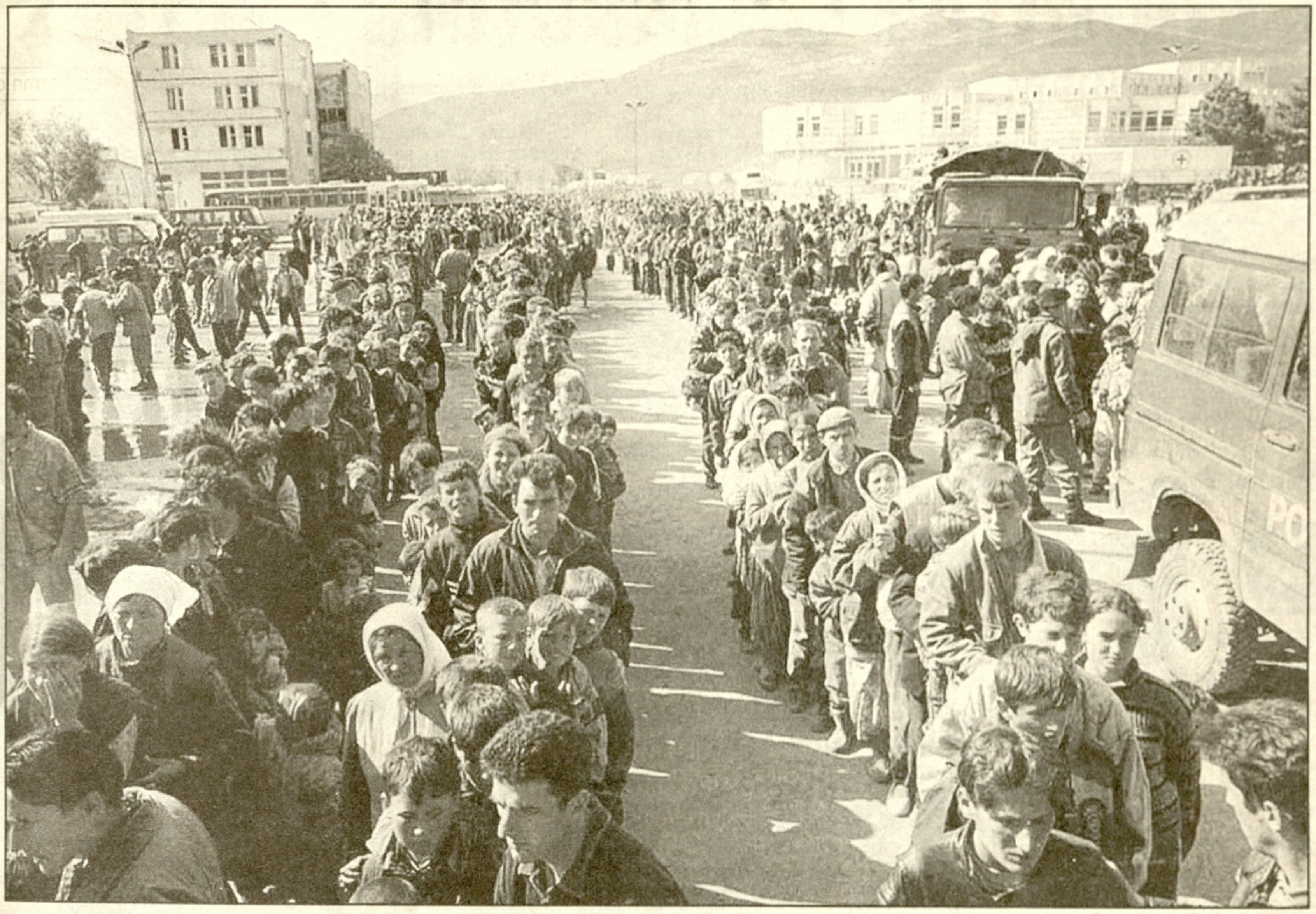
CARE Australia workers Steve Pratt and Peter Wallace have been held for three weeks since they were detained at the Yugoslav-Croatian border..Australian diplomats are arguing for their release.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Australia's ambassador to Yugoslavia, Chris Lamb, had finally been able to visit the men.

"I very much welcome the granting of consular access by the Yugoslav authorities, but I reiterate my call for their immediate release," Downer said. He said negotiations with Yugoslav authorities are continuing.

Downer and CARE Australia have denied that the men were spying.

— *Associated Press*



Edward Keating/The New York Times

Thousands of ethnic Albanians driven from Kosovo line up Tuesday in Kukes, Albania, for food. Albania has kept its border open to refugees, but those fleeing to Macedonia face a populace resentful of their presence and unwilling to make room for more.

No more room in Macedonia

U.N. refugee camps full, those stranded outside harassed by residents

By Ellen Knickmeyer

Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia — The U.N. refugee agency declared its camps in Macedonia full beyond capacity Tuesday, leaving 2,000 to 3,000 new arrivals from Kosovo stuck in a border no-man's land with no food, water or blankets.

While the exhausted refugees faced a second night of driving wind and rain, those fortunate enough to cross the border faced new harassment in Macedonia, which has reluctantly taken in the refugee throngs.

With its largest camp packed with 25,000 refugees, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was forced to put recent arrivals outside the enclave's fence because local farmers would not sell or lease land to expand the Brazda camp. That leaves those on its fringes vulnerable to raids by a local population resentful of the influx of ethnic Albanians.

Macedonian civilians come nightly to the exposed tents, throwing stones, shining flashlights into the tents and shouting, while the exiles cower inside, the Kosovo Albanians said.

"Is there no place where we are safe?" asked one, Adem Muruglica.

Another 2,000 to 3,000 refugees reportedly staggered over a mountain crossing, overwhelming a remote hamlet of 60 houses called Milana, the U.N. refugee agency said.

Both groups of refugees said thousands more were behind them, driven out by Serb purges of ethnic Albanian communities.

The situation was different in Albania, where borders with Kosovo were open Tuesday, but only a few refugees crossed to safety — apparently blocked by Serb forces or fighting.

Already concerned about the virtual halt to refugee crossings into Albania, aid workers also worried about the fate of a reported 15-mile-long convoy of refugees seen coming south from the Kosovo capital of Pristina on Saturday.

The convoy — estimated to include up to 16,000 people — disappeared, according to other refugees' accounts to aid workers. "Something must have happened to those people," said Kris Janowski, UNHCR spokesman in Geneva.

The U.N. agency estimated Tuesday that no more than 500,000 to 800,000 people remain in Kosovo, of a prewar total of 2 million, most of them ethnic Albanians.

Macedonia gave aid workers permission to build one new camp near the Lojane border crossing in Macedonia that could take up to 5,000, but refused permission for two others.

NATO describes mass executions, rape in 'killing fields of Kosovo'

By Bob Hohler and Anne E. Kornblut

The Boston Globe

WASHINGTON — Four weeks into allied airstrikes against Yugoslavia, NATO officials Tuesday made the starkest accusations yet of Serbian troops conducting mass executions, gang rapes and numerous other atrocities against ethnic Albanians in "the killing fields of Kosovo."

The NATO report came as Serbian forces expanded their aggression in the Balkans, spreading their campaign of "ethnic cleansing" into the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, exchanging gunfire with the Albanian Army along the Kosovo border, and sending 300 troops into a demilitarized zone in Croatia.

As some senators raised the possibility of deploying U.S. ground forces to Kosovo, NATO authorities said the Serbian "crimes against humanity" include forcing as many as 700 teen-age boys to act as human shields or "blood banks for Serb casualties."

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea, citing reports "too numerous" to ignore of war crimes in Kosovo, said, "All this means that the killing fields of Kosovo are going to be on our minds for many years to come, as we try to piece the full story together and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice."

The NATO allegations of atrocities are based largely on military intelligence reports and accounts from ethnic Albanian refugees.

Relief agencies said they have lost track of more than 100,000 Kosovars who were seen heading for the Albanian border on Saturday. Only about 100 of the refugees reached the border.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said muddy conditions in Albania have delayed the arrival of 24 Apache helicopters that are expected to significantly bolster the NATO attack on Serb ground forces in Kosovo. Tuesday, NATO carried out daylight bombing raids on strategic Serb military positions throughout Kosovo and continued striking sites in Serbia Tuesday night with cruise missiles.

NATO to play anniversary very low key

WASHINGTON — Eager to minimize the celebratory nature of NATO's 50th anniversary this weekend, President Clinton's foreign policy team confirmed Tuesday that NATO's 19 members this weekend will be talking about such options as an oil embargo against Yugoslavia and even ground troops.

Bleachers for a public ceremony have been dismantled, a fly-over of warplanes has been grounded and two White House dinner parties will be low-key.

Instead of congratulatory speeches and champagne toasts, the focus for the three-day gathering of between 40 and 50 heads of state and government — the largest gathering of its kind in Washington's history — the focus will be on war — and how to win it.

A large aim is to showcase NATO as what Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called a "rock solid" alliance. But there could be some tense moments as, for example, Hungary, which along with Poland and the Czech Republic is joining NATO, has ruled out anti-Serbian forces crossing its territory. And the United States is miffed that France is opposing an oil embargo to keep Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic from replenishing his fuel stocks.

NATO's half-century commemoration was planned years ago.

U.K. to give tribunal war crimes secrets

LONDON — Britain is to give the war crimes tribunal in the Hague an unprecedented amount of secret intelligence material to help bring to justice Serbs involved in atrocities in Kosovo, Robin Cook, the British foreign secretary, announced Tuesday.

"What is happening in the killing fields of Kosovo is unforgivable," Cook said after talks with the tribunal's chief prosecutor, Canadian judge Louise Arbour. "Each refugee flooding out of Kosovo has been a potential witness to a war crime."

Arbour said tracking criminals would be difficult because the tribunal, a U.N. body, had limited resources and relied on the goodwill of governments unwilling to risk compromising their sources by exposing classified intelligence material.

Scripps Howard News Service

Report confirms China stole secrets

Intelligence analysis shows nuclear data were taken in the '80s

By James Risen and Jeff Gerth

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — A comprehensive new analysis by U.S. intelligence officials has concluded that China stole design information related to the United States' most advanced nuclear warhead from a government nuclear weapons laboratory, government officials said.

The intelligence report is expected to be presented to the Clinton administration and Congress today. Previously, the White House, citing other intelligence reports, had said that the evidence was less than conclusive.

Although Energy Department officials have raised alarms about evidence of Chinese espionage at the national weapons labs since 1996, a 1997 report by the CIA was used by the White House to downplay the Energy officials' conclusions in the matter, officials said.

In the new assessment, the intelligence community reports on damage done to national security from what it says is Chinese nuclear spying. The report examines a key finding of a select congressional committee that has investigated allegations of illicit transfers of high technology to China.

That committee, chaired by Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., embraced the findings of Energy Department analysts who concluded that China stole design data from the W-88 warhead from Los Alamos in the 1980s and that the theft was crucial to Beijing's development of a modern, miniaturized nuclear warhead.

U.S. officials said that the new intelligence analysis includes a broad examination of the development of China's nuclear weapons capabilities over the past few decades. It determined that Beijing benefited from espionage through the theft of W-88 design data from Los Alamos.

But it also found that China obtained some sensitive nuclear data from nonsecret sources, including academic exchanges and inadvertent leaks of information by scientists.

The new study comes in the midst of a furor over the administration's early response to reports of Chinese atomic espionage. Energy Department intelligence analysts initially detected the theft in 1995, and senior White House officials, including Samuel Berger, now the national security adviser, were first briefed on the matter in April 1996.

But the White House did not move to increase security at national laboratories until nearly two years later.

Researchers want vitamin C levels boosted

Cancer-fighting ability cited

By Don Babwin

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Government researchers say the recommended daily allowance for vitamin C should be doubled or tripled because of increasing evidence over the past two decades of its cancer-fighting ability.

The current recommended daily allowances were established by the National Academy of Sciences in 1980.

In a paper in today's *Journal of the American Medical Association,* researchers from the National Institutes of Health said the RDA for vitamin C should be raised from 60 milligrams to between 100 mg and 200 mg.

Dr. Mark Levine, an NIH researcher, said the recommendation reflects a growing body of research showing that five servings of fruit and vegetables a day can help prevent cancer. By raising the recommended amount of vitamin C, people are encouraged to eat more fruits and vegetables, he said.

However, the NIH researchers cautioned that people can take too much vitamin C. They said 200 mg is the maximum the body can absorb before it starts expelling the vitamin. Larger amounts can increase the risk of kidney stones, Levine said.

Levine said the recommendations are based on an "explosion" of research conducted since 1980. Levine said the current recommendation is based on decades-old studies.

Vitamin C, which is not produced naturally in the body, is one of 13 vitamins and minerals people need to stay healthy.

The National Academy of Sciences' Food and Nutrition Board is reviewing the recommended dietary allowance of several vitamins, including vitamin C. The board is expected to release its findings later this year.

The board will review the paper and other research in making its decision, said board member Sandy Schlicker.

An expert on vitamin C and other antioxidants agreed it is time to raise the recommended dietary allowance.

"The old recommendation was based on very primitive data," said Dr. Kenny Jialal of the University of Texas's Southwestern Medical Center, who did not participate in the study. "The data we have today is more plausible and more biologically relevant."

Memorial Day in Israel

Nati Harnik/Associated Press

A woman weeps over the grave of a relative killed during military duty at the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem. Flowers covered graves across Israel on Tuesday as the country paused to remember fallen soldiers and victims of terrorist attacks for Memorial Day.

Internet privacy plans described

Law limits fishing for info from kids

By Ted Bridis

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government described plans Tuesday for enforcing a new law that bans companies from collecting personal information from children on the Internet without a parent's permission.

The Federal Trade Commission's proposed rules would require operators of commercial Web sites to make "reasonable efforts" in most cases to obtain consent from parents before asking children under 13 for their names, addresses, telephone numbers or other identifying details.

The rules also would prohibit a company from enticing children with online games or prizes into disclosing "more personal information than is reasonably necessary." They will be adopted after a 45-day public comment period and will take effect next April.

But the agency didn't suggest in its rules how companies should contact parents for permission — such as by e-mail or fax — saying only that it "must be reasonably calculated, in light of available technology."

FTC Chairman Robert Pitofsky said the agency sought to give control to parents over information about their kids, while also offering flexibility to different businesses on the Internet and to new technology.

The problems facing regulators involve the faceless nature of the Internet, where children often know more about the technology than their parents and can easily impersonate an adult with a few mouse clicks.

The government wants to protect children's privacy, but not through regulations so onerous they might discourage children from using the Internet or hinder the extraordinary potential for electronic commerce.

"Parental consent is the key provision," said Katharina Kopp, a policy expert at the Washington-based Center for Media Education, which lobbied for the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, passed by Congress last year.

The law doesn't require companies to obtain a parent's permission to collect a child's e-mail address to send him information on a one-time basis, such as a digital coupon for a video game.

Bradley calls race unity key

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Declaring racial unity "the defining moral issue of our time," former Sen. Bill Bradley Tuesday put the quest for societal integration at the center of his campaign to win the White House in 2000.

Bradley, the sole Democrat thus far to challenge Vice President Al Gore for the party's nomination, said the problem of race is "central to our American future."

"In running for president, I'm betting that far more than a majority of people in America want to achieve a deeper racial unity," he said in a speech to 200 students and administrators at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City.

Bradley said the fight for racial equality has changed.

"While legal barriers are down, divisions still remain, but they are divisions of the heart more than of the law," he said. "If you're black, you know that being within the radar of white fear and suspicion can be dangerous."

Former waitress with winning lottery ticket must share cash with co-workers

By Garry Mitchell

Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — A former waitress who was given a Florida lottery ticket worth $10 million as a tip must share her winnings with four Waffle House co-workers, a jury said Tuesday.

Circuit Judge Robert Kendall adopted the jury's advisory verdict and gave attorneys several days to tell him how they would divide the money among the five people. There was no immediate word on any appeal.

Tonda Dickerson, who will have to share the $10 million, left the courtroom without comment.

Dickerson's Waffle House co-workers had testified that there was a share-the-wealth plan and that in conversations around the hot grill they often discussed how they would spend the money. "It was always stated that if we hit, we split," one of the four co-workers, Matthew Adams, told the jury.

Edward Seward Jr., the Waffle House customer from Bayou La Batre who gave away the lottery tickets, has said he expected the restaurant employees to share any winnings. Florida lottery officials have withheld any payments until the dispute is resolved.

The 28-year-old former waitress, who planned to move out of her Grand Bay mobile home after she won the lottery, testified Monday there was no agreement to divide lottery winnings.

Dickerson's lawyer, Dwight Reid, accused the co-workers of cooking up a "nefarious scheme" to claim part of the money. Besides, he said, there was no written contract to divide the money, which is required by Alabama law.

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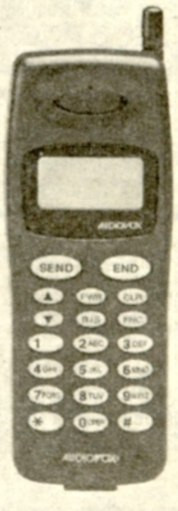

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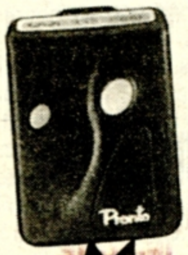

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New Jersey admits bias in stopping motorists

By Thomas Martello
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — The New Jersey attorney general's office acknowledged Tuesday that some state troopers have engaged in "racial profiling" in pulling over motorists.

Complaints that the State Police targets blacks and Hispanics along the heavily traveled New Jersey Turnpike are "real, not imagined," according to a report issued by the agency.

At the same time, Attorney General Peter Verniero said the state is dropping its appeal of a 1996 court ruling that troopers demonstrated racial bias in making arrests along the turnpike. The court decision could affect dozens of pending criminal cases.

The report came one day after two troopers were indicted on charges they falsified reports to make it appear that some of the black motorists they pulled over were white.

The U.S. Justice Department also has been investigating racial profiling allegations against New Jersey's state police. Similar accusations have been made in Florida, Maryland, Connecticut and elsewhere along the Interstate 95 corridor.

The state report concludes that, while six out of 10 motorists stopped are white, troopers are far more likely to subject minorities to searches and aggressive treatment. The statistics show 77.2 percent of motorist searches were of blacks or Hispanics, while only 21.4 percent involved white motorists.

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Establishing IRS oversight board behind schedule

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A citizen oversight board authorized last year to help make the IRS more sensitive to taxpayers should have been up and running during this year's tax filing season, but it doesn't exist yet. The White House is four months late in nominating six members.

Some Congress members worry that the delay could slow changes in the way the Internal Revenue Service does business.

"There's a lot of things that have to be done to make the IRS a better agency," Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., said Tuesday. "Now, it's sort of a headless operation. We'll notice how much this delay has hurt us when the board is appointed."

Last year's IRS reform law created a nine-member panel with the power to review agency operations so that taxpayers are treated properly. The law provided the panel access to some private tax documents in its work.

The panel also will oversee management of the agency, recommend future candidates to run the IRS and advise the president when it feels an incumbent commissioner should be removed.

Three board members are permanent: the Treasury secretary, the IRS commissioner and a representative of the National Treasury Employees Union.

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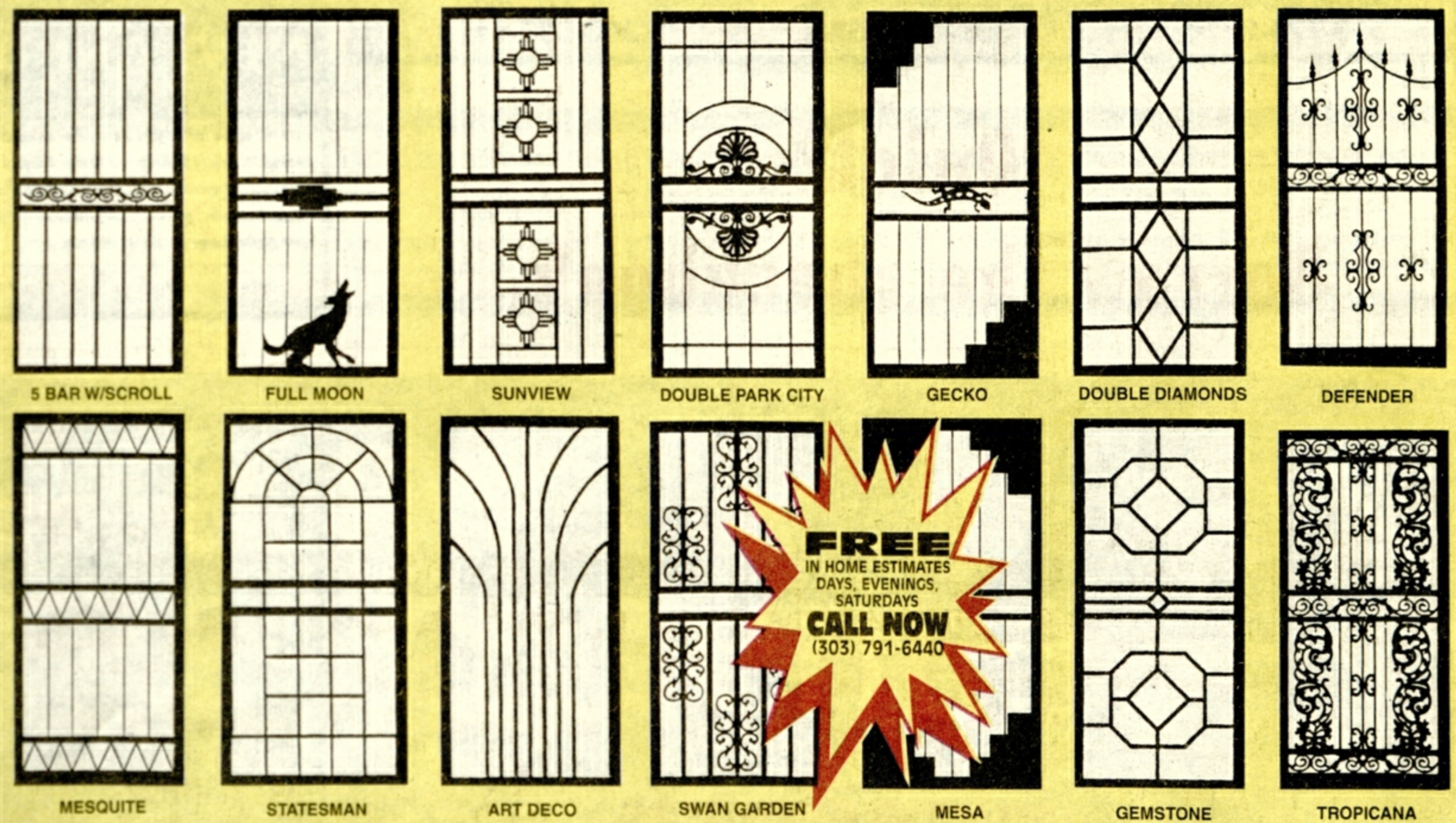

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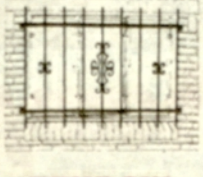

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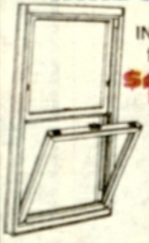

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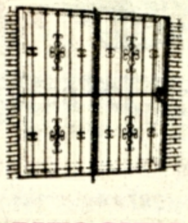

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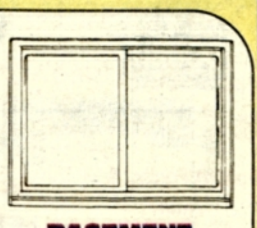

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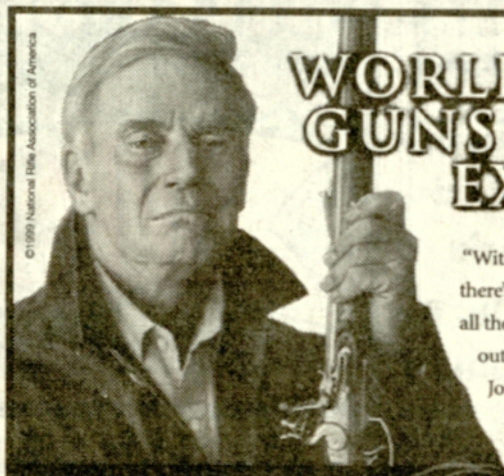
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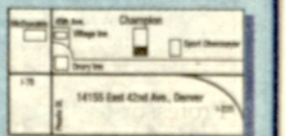

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AIDS groups see decline in donations

By Ulysses Torassa

San Francisco Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO — While stock-rich philanthropies are giving away more money than ever, foundation support for AIDS causes has dropped sharply in the past three years, according to a nationwide survey of charitable foundations released Tuesday.

The decline in foundation giving mirrors widespread reports of a steep drop in individual donations to AIDS groups in many parts of the country.

Funding for organizations in San Francisco has largely held up because of consistent giving from corporations and individuals. But their counterparts in cities like Boston and New York are facing million-dollar shortfalls.

Groups, such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, expect they, too, will be facing significant belt-tightening in the near future.

All are having to adapt to a changing fund-raising climate that includes donor fatigue and the sense that the disease, which is now treatable, is no longer an urgent priority.

"The epidemic is 'old news,'" said Jane Breyer, development director for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "It's getting harder and harder to get people engaged. Folks are burned out."

While the booming stock market is credited with a record 22 percent increase in foundation giving overall last year, HIV-AIDS funding is going down, the survey found.

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Cancer rates inch down in U.S., especially in men

Overall, incidence drops 2.2% a year since 1992, report says, with males seeing greatest decline

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fewer Americans are stricken with cancer every year, thanks largely to a decline in smoking, scientists said Tuesday.

The news is better for men: Although they still suffer more cancer than women do, the rate of new cancer cases is dropping eight times faster for men than for women, says the American Cancer Society's annual report on cancer.

Overall, cancer incidence has dropped 2.2 percent a year since 1992, says the new report, published in this week's *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, which analyzed cancer trends through 1996.

Scientists warned on Tuesday that tobacco use could reverse the progress: Lung cancer remains the nation's top cancer killer, and recent declines in lung cancer among men who quit smoking in the 1970s and '80s helped fuel the overall declines in cancer incidence and mortality. But high teen smoking and new popularity for cigars have experts fearing a rebound.

Indeed, cigarette smoking by high school students rose a disturbing 32 percent during the 1990s, report said. And cigar smoking — which a second study published in the cancer journal Tuesday concluded is as cancer-causing as cigarettes — has reversed a 20-year decline, rising by 50 percent in the past four years.

The scientists used death certificates and government health databases to determine the rates of new cancer cases and cancer deaths through 1996, the latest data available.

Cancer incidence increased slowly from the 1970s through 1992 — but since then has steadily dropped, about 2.2 percent a year through 1996, the report said. It's falling faster for men, 4.1 percent a year, compared with less than half a percent drop for women.

Cancer death rates also are dropping more for men, 1 percent a year, compared with 0.4 percent a year for women.

Scientists have known for several years that lung cancer incidence was slowly decreasing among men, by about 2.6 percent a year. At the same time, however, lung cancer was becoming a steadily bigger problem for women, who began to quit smoking later than men did.

During the 1990s, lung cancer deaths rose 1.4 percent a year among women.

But Tuesday's report shows a glimmer of hope that women might be about to turn that tide: When scientists looked just at women ages 40 to 59 — the age group that first began kicking the habit — they found a slight decrease in lung cancer.

That's the same age group in which the male lung cancer decline first appeared.

Lung cancer aside, the study found improvement in fighting most forms of cancer.

But two forms of cancer are increasing: non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and melanoma.

New cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are rising by a little over half a percent per year and deaths are rising by 1.8 percent a year. The incidence rate of melanoma, caused by too much time in the sun, increased 2.7 percent a year during the 1990s, although death rates have remained unchanged.

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Healthy people can eat moderate amounts of cholesterol safely

Study: An egg a day won't keep health at bay

By Brenda C. Coleman
Associated Press

CHICAGO — An egg a day really is OK, according to researchers who found that healthy people eating up to seven eggs a week didn't increase their risk for heart attacks or strokes.

"Our study doesn't mean that people should go back to the typical Western diet — a breakfast with two eggs, bacon, sausage, butter and toast.

"This kind of diet is very unhealthy," said Dr. Frank B. Hu, whose research used data from two long-running landmark studies. "People are afraid of eggs — because the cholesterol is so high and their reputation is so bad," said Hu, a nutritional epidemiologist at Harvard School of Public Health.

"But eggs, per se — I don't think they deserve such a bad reputation."

Diabetics, however, did face higher risks of heart attacks or strokes with increased egg consumption, according to the study, which is being published in today's *Journal of the American Medical Association.*

A large egg contains about 215 milligrams of cholesterol — far more than most other foods with the same number of calories.

A spokeswoman for the American Heart Association, which was not involved in the study, said the findings won't change her group's belief that Americans should limit their dietary cholesterol.

"These new data do not conflict with the American Heart Association's recommendations that healthy individuals consume no more than 300 milligrams of dietary cholesterol per day," said the spokeswoman, Dr. Alice H. Lichtenstein of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nutrition center at Tufts University in Boston.

She agreed with the study's authors and what many experts have said for a long time: that it is more important to limit consumption of saturated fats and trans fats, the processed fats that make doughnuts, commercial cakes, potato chips and french fries so delicious.

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100's of Used Cars and Trucks to be Liquidated This Saturday April 24, 1999.

Colorado Chrysler just announced plans to offer their $5 Used Car & Truck Sales Event on Saturday April 24, 1999. According to Mike Souchek, recent record sales in the last few months have resulted in an increased number of trade-ins.

Colorado Chrysler plans on selling over 200 cars, many used cars will be sold for thousands below their original price.

"In fact, some cars that usually sell for 5 to 8 thousand dollars will be sold for 3 to 5 thousand. Our customers will learn that the deals at our $5 Sales are better than auctions. Auction bidding often inflates the true value of cars so you pay more," **Used Car Manager** was quoted as saying. "Here every car is on sale, first come, first served & no bidding." It's the perfect opportunity to get a quality used car at the best price possible, including ones for $5.

All Used Cars will be on display at Colorado Chrysler at 8:00AM to look at before the sale begins at 10:00AM. All vehicles will be open to whoever is sitting behind the wheel at 10:00AM, the prices posted on the windshield will be given first opportunity to purchase the vehicle at the sale price. Mr. Souchek said that his innovative approach to selling used vehicles should make it easy & quick for anybody in the market for a used vehicle to get a car at a very low price & with no hassle.

"Pick it out, drive it, if you like it, You already know the price, what could be easier? We have 20 Finance Sources available to help you arrange low-cost financing."

All used vehicles for sale at Colorado Chrysler have been inspected by their car care center & most qualify for extended service contracts.

"Our $5 Used Car & Truck Sales Event will be a huge success. Word of mouth is the best form of advertising, & if you sell a customer a good car at a good price, they'll tell others where they bought it." We expect a lot of folks to leave here Saturday with great cars at great prices.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Neglect, bad air ruining U.S. parks

Advocacy group gives list of worst locations

By H. Josef Hebert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dirty air is choking the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Deteriorating sewers are polluting the streams of Yellowstone. Historic ruins in the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico are falling apart because of neglect and vandalism.

The examples were cited Tuesday by a private parks advocacy group as examples of a national park system that is in need of billions of dollars in repairs and protection.

"Our national parks are not being protected or respected," said Thomas Kiernan, president of the National Parks and Conservation Association, as the group released a list of its 10 "most endangered parks" in the federal system of 378 parks, monuments and historical sites.

Kiernan said the 10 parks were examples of the problems facing the federal park system and that other parks may be just as endangered.

But Kiernan acknowledged that overcoming years of neglect and funding shortfalls will be expensive — perhaps as much as $6 billion over many years.

While there is growing interest in Congress this year to spend more for conservation, including land purchases, there's no indication Congress is prepared to spend that kind of money on the federal park system.

Democratic Sens. Harry Reid of Nevada and Bob Graham of Florida attended the news conference to promote legislation they have introduced that would provide $500 million a year for park improvements and address outside threats to federal parks.

The remaining parks on the 10 most endangered list:

- Denali National Park, Alaska. A northern access road through 80 miles of the park threatens wildlife and habitat.
- Everglades, Biscayne National Park and Cypress National Preserve, Florida. Decades of development have siphoned away and polluted waters.
- Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania. Civil War uniforms, guns, swords, saddles and photographs have been damaged by mold, rust and rot.
- Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona. It's overcome by traffic, air pollution.
- Haleakala National Park, Hawaii. Invasion by non-native plants and animals.
- Mojave National Preserve, California. Development and growth around the park threatens the park's desert wilderness.
- Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota. Threatened by use of vehicles including motorized watercraft and snowmobiles.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFING

Painkiller gets nod from panel

WASHINGTON — Government advisers recommended approval Tuesday of a powerful and potentially safer painkiller, Merck & Co.'s Vioxx, which promises competition for some of the nation's biggest-selling drugs.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration voted Tuesday that Vioxx effectively treats osteoarthritis pain and that it is an effective analgesic for acute pain, with less stomach damage.

Indiana man charged in arsons

WASHINGTON — A 36-year-old Indiana man with an interest in satanism was indicted Tuesday on charges of burning 10 churches in Indiana and Georgia, including one in which a volunteer firefighter died, the National Church Arson Task Force announced.

Jay Scott Ballinger, who was arrested last February on a federal complaint charging him with seven southern Indiana church fires, "is a white man charged with setting fire to predominantly white churches," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee, task force co-chairman.

Worried judge prevents reunion

EUGENE, Ore. — A judge refused Tuesday to return a baby to an HIV-infected mother who wants to breast-feed. "The parents may choose to run that risk with the child, but the court may second-guess that decision," Juvenile Court Judge Maurice Merten said after a three-day hearing on the custody of 4-month-old Felix Tyson. So far, Felix has tested negative for HIV.

Kathleen Tyson and her husband, David, lost legal custody of their son when he was days old because of the decision to nurse.

Fired preacher to lead group

CHICAGO — A United Methodist pastor ordered suspended for blessing the "marriage" of two Chicago men will become director of a group working to lift the church's ban on same-sex unions.

The Rev. Gregory Dell, pastor at Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago, said he will become director of the group In All Things Charity when his suspension takes effect July 5.

Sheep ruling could doom cats

RENO, Nev. — The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the Sierra Nevada bighorn an endangered species Tuesday, a move that could lead to the shooting of mountain lions found to have preyed on the sheep.

Only about 100 adult bighorns survive in the High Sierra wilderness, mostly around Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon national parks in California and along the Nevada line.

News wire services

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFING

Taxes ignite Jamaican protests

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Gunfire, looting and flaming roadblocks paralyzed Jamaica's capital Tuesday as protesters defied police firing tear gas and warning shots. One woman was killed and six people were wounded, police said.

Demonstrators were protesting a government decision Thursday to increase gasoline prices and the cost of licensing vehicles. The taxes are to help pay off the Caribbean island's mounting debt and a bailout of failing banks.

Colombian peace talks resume

SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUAN, Colombia — Government and guerrilla delegates began a new round of peace talks Tuesday amid rising public skepticism and reports of human rights abuses by the rebels. The meeting resumes a dialogue begun in January with Colombia's oldest and largest rebel group, the 15,000-member Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

FARC senior commander Raul Reyes said the two sides had exchanged views on the government's progress against the rightist militias and would continue that discussion today.

Venezuela blasts interference

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez's government accused the United States on Tuesday of meddling in its foreign relations and said it will support Cuba, Iran and China in U.N. votes on human rights.

IMF says world is on rebound

WASHINGTON — The global economy, badly shaken by a 20-month-old currency crisis that has pushed one-third of the world into recession, should stabilize this year and enjoy a solid rebound by 2000, the International Monetary Fund predicted Tuesday.

For 1999, the IMF's World Economic Outlook projected global growth of 2.3 percent. While that would be lower than last year's 2.5 percent, it represented a slight 0.1 percent increase from the last IMF forecast issued in December. For 2000, the IMF predicted a solid recovery, with world output increasing by 3.4 percent.

Israel ends law that irked U.S.

JERUSALEM — Israel's parliament repealed a law Monday that barred Israeli citizens from being extradited to stand trial in other countries, spurred by a Maryland murder case that strained U.S.-Israel relations.

Upset by Israel's refusal to extradite Samuel Sheinbein, a Maryland teen-ager accused of brutally killing an acquaintance and dismembering his body, several U.S. lawmakers had threatened to cut off aid over the case.

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Commentary

Vincent Carroll, Editorial Pages Editor — (303) 892-5477 • **e-mail** — letters@denver-rmn.com

Big name colleges no bargain

Thomas Sowell

For many high school seniors and their parents, this is the time of year when colleges let them know if their applications have been accepted. For those who have been chosen, it is now their turn to make their own choices among the colleges that have sent acceptances.

One of the most overrated factors in these choices are the big names of some colleges and universities. There may be some famous professors at Ivy U., but that doesn't mean much to an undergraduate who is more likely to be taught by graduate students or by temporary "gypsy faculty" who teach introductory courses that the academic stars consider too boring to teach themselves.

For the kind of megabucks tuition that can leave both students and parents in hock for years, this is no bargain. A far better education may be obtained at a good quality college where courses are taught by professors who are competent and available, rather than by the graduate assistants.

For minority students, there are further dangers in big-name colleges and universities that want them as warm bodies which visibly demonstrate "diversity" on campus, regardless of whether these students last long enough to graduate.

Despite a recent book by a couple of retired Ivy League university presidents, suggesting that it is imperative that blacks go to elite colleges whether or not their qualifications match those of the other students there, the cold fact is that it is infinitely better to graduate from Hillsdale College or Birmingham Southern than to flunk out of Berkeley or Columbia. It is also better to get an engineering degree from Cal State at San Luis Obispo than to squeak through some Ivy League school by taking soft courses in subjects that prepare you for nothing but unemployment.

It is a monument to the dedication of many parents that they are willing to take out second mortgages on their homes in order to pay exorbitant tuition at some prestige institutions. Seldom is it worth it.

Some people point to the fact that students who graduate from big-name colleges earn higher incomes later on. Well, Harvard does turn out bright students because Harvard takes in bright students — and usually does not ruin them during the four years in between. But that is wholly different from saying that the reason such students do well in later life is because they went to Harvard.

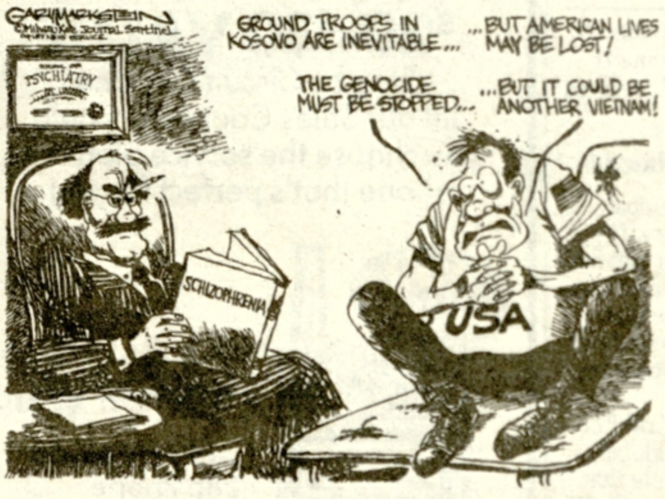
Graduates of Harvey Mudd College go on to receive Ph.D.s a far higher percentage of the time than do the graduates of Harvard. Graduates of Franklin & Marshall College have scored higher on the medical school examination than the graduates of Berkeley.

Parents should also consider the non-academic aspects of college. Do they really want to send their daughter to a college that has co-ed showers? Many big-name colleges and universities go in for all sorts of dangerous fads like this.

College guides are often used to help decide where to apply for admissions. Two guides that tell a lot about the social atmosphere, as well as the curriculum, at colleges across the country are *Choosing the Right College* and the *National Review College Guide.* Not only can they help students and parents avoid wasting money, but also avoid having a life distorted.

Parents are often regarded as mere obstacles to the student's making his or her own college choices. Not only do some headstrong students feel this way, so do many high school counselors and college admissions officers. But it is not their money and not their child — and these know-it-alls are not the ones that will have to pick up the pieces if they steer your child into disaster.

Creators Syndicate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Like it or not, we can't ignore world

Molly Ivins

When in Washington, one should do as the Washingtonians do and enter the capital's favorite sport, the Blame Game. Everyone here plays, constantly, so the official symbol is the pointed finger.

Right now, everybody is blaming everybody else because we have no good options in Kosovo. It's not that you hear anyone suggesting some helpful option that hasn't been tried; the entire discussion is: "Why didn't they do this? Why didn't they do that?

Should have, would have, could have. Except for the military, who are in the happy position of being able to shut up and fight, the whole town is playing the Blame Game. *Don't blame me, I didn't do it, wasn't my idea, I had nothing to do with it, someone else's fault, I wasn't there, no one asked me.* If they put as much energy into organizing relief for the refugees as they do into blaming one another, there'd be a lot of less-miserable Kosovars.

Taking the longer view, since nobody here voted for Slobodan Milosevic, maybe they should all get a bye. However, since we are all in agreement that we are indeed in a miserable position, perhaps there will be some interest in how we might prevent a repeat of this unfortunate pass in future. This is not a case of shoulda-woulda-coulda but something we can do right now.

A slightly obscure story reports that Hillary Clinton, "alarmed by House and Senate spending plans that would slash foreign aid and diplomatic operations," has pitched in to help a coalition of businessmen, humanitarians and ethnic organizations. The coalition, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, peace groups and even environmental groups, is lobbying Congress to persuade it that further budget cuts to the State Department are not a shrewd idea. Their argument is that America should not succumb to isolationist tendencies just when U.S. leadership is needed to boost new democracies, combat terrorism and protect societies from bullies like Milosevic.

To my embarrassment, I recall that this is at least the fifth or sixth round of this same process. Sen. Jesse Helms cuts the State Department's budget whenever the Republicans run the Senate; he did it back in the '80s, too.

In fact, Helms, a know-nothing isolationist from way, way back, has bullied the State Department mercilessly for years. Everyone there tries to placate him, although Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has called the proposed cuts "outrageous and unacceptable."

The silly thing about having a debate on the wisdom of isolationism at this late date is that the world is still out there, whether we deign to recognize it or not. Sort of like the loony time we did not recognize China. Amazingly enough, even without our recognition, China remained right there, getting bigger and stronger and tougher and smarter and richer all the time we were not recognizing it. That did us a fat lot of good, didn't it? And that's just what trying to ignore the rest of the world does for us.

Most of the shoulda-woulda-coulda sloshing around Washington about Milosevic today involves failed diplomatic initiatives going back three years, seven years, nine years. If only we had told him this, done that, known the other, then we wouldn't have to be bombing Serbia today. It wouldn't be our only option and a decidedly bad one at that.

Granted, it is always easier to see what we should have done in hindsight. There is no guarantee that had we had more diplomats on the ground, better reporting and more connections, we would have made the moves then that would give us better options now. But it is more likely.

So here's to making some lemonade out of Slobodan Milosevic. The bully of the Balkans may serve to remind us again that it is smarter to invest in lots and lots of diplomacy than to be forced into fighting. As Winston Churchill said, "To jaw-jaw is always better than to war-war."

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

They like Bush, wherever he is

Peter Blake

Colorado Politics

Texas Gov. George W. Bush has managed to win the support of almost all of Colorado's top Republicans by keeping his mouth shut on most national issues. Can he hold it once he starts talking?

He's been especially silent on the one issue that increasingly dominates political discussion: the growing war in the Balkans and the possibility that U.S. ground forces soon could be committed to it.

Gov. Bill Owens, who's leading the drive for Bush here, explained that Bush has been concentrating on Texas issues and will be answering questions and taking stands when its legislature adjourns in late May.

Owens is Bush's state chairman. Both U.S. senators and three of the state's four GOP congressmen are on board — Bob Schaffer is the exception. Treasurer Mike Coffman, Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers, Senate President Ray Powers, House Speaker Russ George and two-thirds of the 60 GOP lawmakers have also signed on.

Bush has plenty of company among the 10 GOP presidential candidates when it comes to keeping a low profile on the trickiest, stickiest issue in politics.

Sen. John McCain has been earning media points for courage, if not wisdom, by advocating the use of troops and pursuing victory in the Balkans, whatever that might mean. Pat Buchanan, on the other hand, has been urging us to get out. The others are lying low, like Bush.

The speed with which Republicans rushed to endorse Bush, so early in the game, is reminiscent of March 1992, when a flood of Colorado lawmakers and politically active lobbyists from both parties rushed to sign up with red-hot independent Ross Perot. Former Speakers Bev Bledsoe and Ruben Valdez were among them. The others we won't mention, to spare them further embarrassment.

Perot kept talking, proving he was two pie charts short of a full slide show, and everyone bailed out in a hurry.

Bush, at least, has developed some sort of electoral record, but he's still going to find the national spotlight blindingly bright, highlighting every misstep. A war only makes the footing more slippery.

His Colorado supporters may end up wishing they'd waited a little longer to commit.

By the way, there are only two Democratic candidates left to choose from, Vice President Al Gore and former Sen. Bill Bradley. Sens. John Kerry and Bob Kerrey and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt withdrew before the war heated up.

But Colorado's top Democrats seem to be in no hurry to choose.

House Minority Leader Ken Gordon of Denver put it bluntly: "We're afraid Gore might be painted with some of the Clinton stuff."

Patriotic address: On or about June 1, the state Republican Party is leaving the downtown Denver headquarters it's occupied for 20 years. But it's not going to the site near the Merchandise Mart in Adams County site that chairman Bob Beauprez once contemplated.

Instead the party is moving to 1776 S. Jackson Street, near the intersection of Colorado Boulevard and Interstate 25. The second-floor offices were occupied last fall by Bill Owens' gubernatorial campaign. Parking is said to be plentiful.

The party would like to keep its current 893-1776 phone number but that will have to be worked out with U S West.

Peter Blake's column appears Wednesdays and Sundays. Reach him at (303) 892-5119 or pblake2@aol.com.

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"Give light and the people will find their own way"

EDITORIALS

A tragedy at Columbine

Our heart goes out to the Columbine High School community. As we write, the full scope of the horror there is still being determined. But what is clear enough is that a tragedy of unfathomable magnitude has occurred — the bloodiest such incident, apparently, in American history.

It is too early — if it ever will be possible — to point fingers, draw lessons, unravel motives, or otherwise bend this tragedy to fit some explanatory formula. Rather, one simple yet overwhelmingly important fact must be kept in mind: Metro Denver has been dealt a devastating blow, and the welfare of the survivors, the injured and their families is all that really counts.

Fortunately, their welfare is in good and caring hands. Television viewers Tuesday could see the deep concern all afternoon and into the night radiate from the faces of the police, medical personnel, school officials, parents, friends and other citizens who descended on the Columbine area in order to be of help.

Such an outpouring would have occurred under any emergency, of course, but the fact that children were involved no doubt ensured that the reaction was even more intense.

Every life is precious, to be sure, but the loss or injury of children is immeasurably more heart-rending. For most parents, the thought of their children being terrorized and executed by lunatic gunmen is worse than the prospect of facing similar terror and death themselves.

Ironically, a school is supposed to be a place of security and even tranquility, yet once again America has witnessed a violent rampage on school grounds. It is shocking to review the long list of school shootings in the past two years. What, many Americans must wonder, is going on?

We don't profess to know, yet surely part of the answer is a relatively simple phenomenon: unbalanced kids imitating the highly publicized actions of other unbalanced kids.

Most other explanations for the spate of school shootings — the influence of violent entertainment, for example, or too-easy access to guns — suffer from the weakness of having long predated the recent trend of resentful students invading their schools with guns.

But as we said, we don't really know what the explanation is, nor do we care to speculate right now. The moment is too solemn, the bloodletting too extensive for the mind even to grasp. For the time being, our thoughts remain focused solely on those whose lives now will never be the same.

Phony reason for a pink slip

CNN's parting with its star correspondent, Peter Arnett, lacked what news organizations are supposed to prize most, credibility.

CNN described his shove out the door as "amicable." Arnett heaped praise on CNN, and the network said it was "grateful" to Arnett. Yeah, right.

Arnett looks the victim of a slow-motion firing. Last June, he narrated a highly improbable story, one that CNN was forced to retract, that the U.S. military had tried to use nerve gas on American defectors during the Vietnam War.

Arnett's defense — that he had contributed "not one comma" to the report — was hardly honorable but not uncommon in television news, where the "talent" blows in, reads the words of underlings for the cameras and blows out.

CNN seemed to have a simple choice: If the facts warranted, it could have fired Arnett outright, and if not, it could have stood by its correspondent of 18 years. Arnett is a figure of some controversy, but he joined the struggling CNN at its shoestring start, bringing with him the credentials of a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP reporter.

Instead, CNN appears to have adopted the Nixonian White House strategy of letting Arnett twist slowly in the wind — only one on-air appearance in nearly a year — until a window in his contract allowed the network an out.

CNN is now slick and corporate, and Arnett is an untelegenic 64 and bald.

"Amicable" strains credibility. "Shabby" does not.

Rosa Parks, an American hero

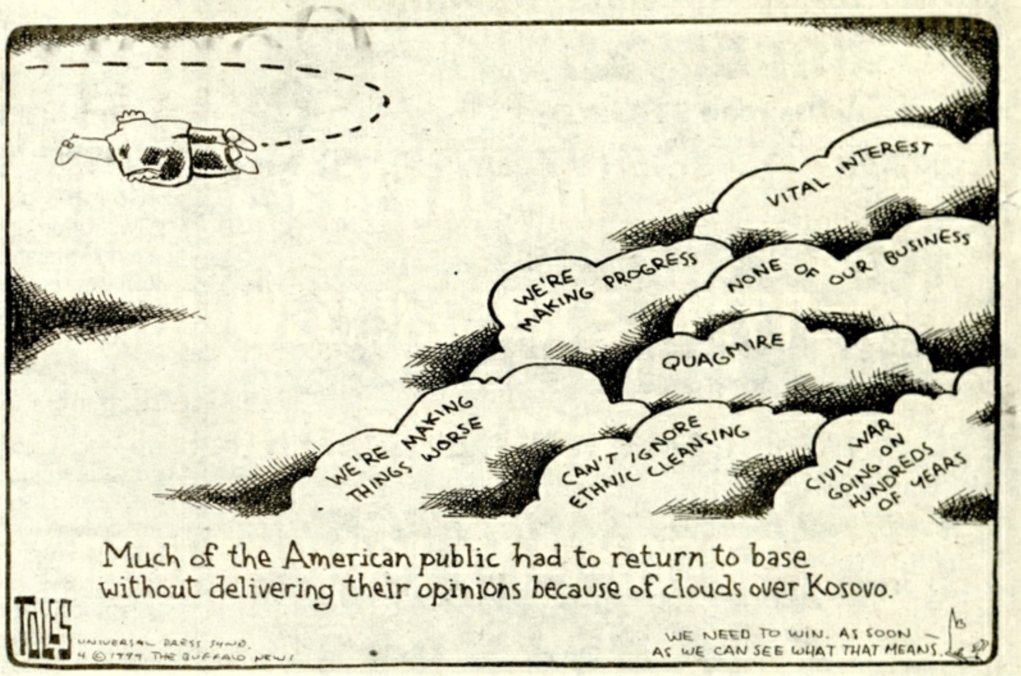
Rosa Parks didn't intend to be a pivotal figure in American history.

She was tired and her feet hurt when she took her seat in the first row of the "colored" seats on the Cleveland Avenue bus. The bus was crowded, and she refused the driver's demand to give up her seat to a white man. Parks was arrested for that violation of the Jim Crow laws and the prevailing social order, both of which were doomed the moment she was forcibly removed from the bus.

That began a 381-day boycott of the municipal bus system by the black citizens of Montgomery, Ala. The boycott propelled both the civil rights movement and an obscure young preacher named Martin Luther King Jr. into national prominence.

Parks and her husband, Raymond, were active in the civil rights movement, but on Dec. 1, 1955, all she wanted to do was get home from her job as a seamstress. With that single affront — she, a black woman, should stand so a white man could sit — the movement had found its symbol, a role that Parks, now 86, bears with grace and dignity to this day.

The House and Senate this week voted to award her the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor, fitting recognition of a pivotal figure in American history.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NATO fights one war, while Milosevic fights another

Michael Kelly

Good news at last. In Brussels on Monday, the spokesman for NATO, Jamie P. Shea, announced that Slobodan Milosevic's corps of ethnic cleansers have added 8,000 fresh troops to their number in Kosovo. This would seem, as *The New York Times* delicately noted, "to undercut NATO's assertions that it is choking off the ability of Yugoslavia to resupply its forces in the field." Oh no, Shea declared, the arrival of half a division of Serb soldiers in Kosovo was a positive development: "It's a sign of how difficult Belgrade is finding it to bring the area under total control."

Or perhaps it's a sign that Milosevic is, in fact, Little Bunny Foo-Foo, and that the Good Fairy will any minute now come down and turn him into a goon for scooping up excessive numbers of field mice and bopping them on the head.

It is too much to ask that the initial plans of any war be met with swift success. But it is not too much to ask that the planners do not lie, to themselves and to the public, about how their plans are faring. And what is going on with the plan in Yugoslavia is that it is failing, catastrophically.

When Shea spoke, NATO had bombed Yugoslavia for 27 days, for a total of more than 2,000 attack sorties. That is about 25 days and 1,995 more attack sorties than President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright convinced themselves would be enough to force Milosevic to bow to the will of the West. The bombing has caused serious damage to the military and economic structure of Yugoslavia. It has killed a lot of people, a fair number of them civilians. But it has not, to understate the case, accomplished its two original stated aims. These were, the planners may wish to recall, to force Milosevic to accept the principles of the Rambouillet peace accord and to stop the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo.

There are two wars under way. In the war the West planned, the air war, things are going mostly splendidly. NATO's machines every day destroy a few more pieces of Yugoslavia, and Yugoslavia can do very little except suffer. But Milosevic is not fighting this war. He is fighting the other war — the ground war in Kosovo.

By the Pentagon's estimates, Milosevic has as many as 43,000 troops in Kosovo. He controls the ground there as surely as NATO controls the air above. The United Nations refugee agency reckons that Milosevic has forced more than 619,000 of Kosovo's 1.6 million ethnic Albanians to flee into neighboring countries in the past year. Another 500,000 to 850,000 are believed to be remaining inside Kosovo, a great many of them forced from their homes and living without shelter and food in the wild.

Day by day, we bomb, and day by day the cleansing continues. The killing continues too. NATO estimates that Serb forces have killed 3,200 Kosovar Albanians since we began bombing Serb forces to save Kosovar Albanians. David Scheffer, the U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes issues, says that figure is "very low." One hundred thousand ethnic Albanian men are missing in Kosovo.

There is a great disconnect between the two wars in Yugoslavia. NATO planners have no reason to believe that anything they are doing in the air is having the slightest real effect in stopping what the Serbs are doing on the ground. But they have a plan, and they are sticking to it. "In the fall, we had a plan developed for putting forces in to implement a peace agreement . . . ," said Secretary Albright on Sunday. Quite right, said British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook: "There is no reason whatsoever to change."

No, no, no reason at all. We have started a war to protect a people, and we know that, far from being protected, the people are being slaughtered and beaten and driven destitute from their homes to starve in the hills. We know that there is no sign that Serb forces are being hurt enough to force their retreat.

But we must stick to the plan. We must fly high in the air, even if this means that we cannot effectively kill Serb troops who are killing ethnic Albanians, and even if this means that we ourselves sometimes kill ethnic Albanians by mistake, as NATO has finally admitted. We must not send in soldiers. Because these things are dangerous. We could get hurt.

National Journal

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LETTERS

Gun permit data don't support doctors' fears

Recently, a story appeared in the *News* detailing the concern of trauma doctors at Denver Health Medical Center that a statewide concealed-handgun law would result in more gunshot victims in Colorado. Dr. Vince Markovchick, director of emergency medical services, said, "We're clearly going to see a dramatic increase in the number of gunshot-wound victims." Although I have the utmost respect for trauma doctors and their staffs, I must question this assertion based on the success of the concealed-handgun program in El Paso County.

In terms of the number of permits issued to law-abiding citizens, the El Paso County program is the largest in the state. There are currently 3,352 active permits, and at one time they exceeded 4,000. The number has decreased due to permit-holders choosing not to renew. It is estimated that there are some 6,300 permits in the state. Clearly, if the number of gunshot victims increased as a result of more concealed handgun permits, it would stand to reason that we would experience a dramatic rise in shootings in El Paso County. I can state unequivocally that has not been the case.

Since the inception of the program in January 1995, there has been only one shooting involving a citizen who has been issued a concealed-handgun permit in our county. That incident involved a business owner defending himself during a violent armed robbery attempt in which one of the assailants was shot and killed.

To fully understand this important issue, I believe it is necessary to analyze the factual and historical data.

John Wesley Anderson
Sheriff, El Paso County
Colorado Springs

■

Gun advocates would be better off locking doors

According to media reports, violent crime in Colorado decreased 37.3 percent between 1992 and 1997, while in states with "lax" concealed-weapons laws, it decreased only 11.4 percent. "Lax states" have also become "tax states" to pay for the increasing number of prisoners.

Gun advocates view the world as a hostile and predatory place. They hold the unrealistic belief that they need to have a weapon immediately available when needed. However, for every time a gun was used in self-defense, there were: 1.3 accidental deaths, 4.6 criminal homicides an 33 firearm suicides.

A six-year study of firearm-related deaths in the home in the Seattle metro area, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1986, found that when an illegal entry in a single-family dwelling occurs:

■ 42 percent of the criminals leave without confronting the victims;

■ 3 percent of victims are shot, but there are rarely any deaths;

■ 6 percent of the criminals reached a gun before the victim did;

■ 1.5 percent of victims employed a firearm in self-defense.

If the gun advocates truly want self-protection, they should use locks on windows and doors and security systems, and lobby for more police.

Furthermore, Colorado has the fifth highest suicide rate in the nation, exceeding traffic deaths. The increased availability of guns would likely only add to this number.

I want to be able to choose to live in a city or neighborhood that is free of concealed guns. If other locations vote to be enslaved by guns — well, there are no laws against stupidity.

Mark German
Brighton

■

News deceived readers in describing spanking

I am ashamed of the April 10 story ("TV host begins jail sentence") which reported that Christian talk show host Bob Enyart began serving 60 days in jail for hitting a 7-year-old boy with a belt, and that he "struck the boy hard enough to raise welts and break the skin." While it is technically true to say Enyart "hit" the boy, it is very misleading not to tell readers that what actually took place was an old-fashioned spanking.

The story said the reason for this "assault" was that the boy refused to take a shower. The truth is that he was given five swats on the backside for blatantly defying his mother and refusing to do what he was told.

It is a sad commentary on our society to see a man is jailed for 60 days for disciplining a child, when our judges routinely turn rapists, muggers and thieves free with little or no punishment. It is perhaps even sadder to see the obvious bias of the *News* in distorting the truth.

God's words tell us that parents are to spank their children so they will learn the difference between right and wrong. Yes, it is to be done in love, as was the case with Enyart, but it is to be done. The liberal notion that spanking is old-fashioned has been tried, and our lawless society tells the story. God was right all along, and people who think they are smarter than God are fools.

Mark Sutherland
Denver

■

It's important that we understand the Chinese

Thank you for the April 10 article that included a photo of the Chinese-American scholar and teacher John Yee, who came to live in Denver after World War II, graduating from the University of Denver in 1955 and later earning a master's degree from the University of Colorado.

Yee emphasized how important it is that America understand more deeply Chinese history and culture. He then went into the fascinating differences in American and Chinese philosophical views on many topics such as human rights, democracy and trade. His profound statements should be studied by us all.

For one, China has no history of democracy, only 5,000 years of autocratic rule. Chinese values on human rights and life are very Taoist, with everything being relative.

Yee said that in America the Judeo-Christian religion forms the basis for the absolute of right and wrong, but it should be remembered that there have been important exceptions to the Taoist trend in Chinese philosophy. There is, for example, the 20th century Chinese Christian spiritual teacher, Watchman Nee, who wrote such powerful books as *The Spiritual Man*, which still greatly influence and inspire many in the Christian world.

In both China and in America, we must pray for a blending and peaceful healing in our two cultural worlds, as well as mutual learning.

Jennifer Purdy
Northglenn

■

Big Tobacco must resort to personal attacks

In a recent letter, John Ripe of the Night Shift Saloon in Aurora accused Citizens of Aurora for a Smokefree Environment (CASE) of trying to run him out of business. Perhaps Ripe is unaware that the ordinance we're proposing exempts saloons and bars. His business would not be affected.

It might be wise for Ripe and the other restaurant and bar owners who have written letters to the editor to be more sure of their facts before they attack CASE and the many fine health organizations that are trying to protect the people of Aurora from this serious health hazard. As for the speculation about my character and motives, this seems in line with the tobacco industry's theme of "If you can't attack the message, attack the messenger." With all the scientific and economic facts on our side, Big Tobacco has no option but to resort to personal attacks.

I've received many accolades in my life, but none has pleased me as much as making Big Tobacco's "enemies list." It proves I'm doing something right!

Barbara Melin
Citizens of Aurora for a Smokefree Environment
Aurora

■

Compelling argument

One of the few things that would ever compel me to consider the need to pack a pistol is the passage of a concealed weapons bill.

Scott Alan Smith
Denver

Letters policy

The Denver Rocky Mountain News welcomes all letters. Those under 100 words are considered first and edited least. Those over 400 words are seldom used. Anonymity is rarely granted. No poetry or open letters, please. For verification purposes, letters must be signed with name, street address and daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail received, letters by the same author will rarely appear more often than every 90 days. Letters become property of the News and are not returned. Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, Denver Rocky Mountain News, P.O. Box 719, Denver, CO 80201. Fax number: (303) 892-2568. E-mail address: letters@denver-rmn.com.

LETTERS

This nation becoming hopelessly entangled

Kosovo. Where are we going? Why are we there? Are the real facts the ones we are encouraged to believe? Consider:

1. That President Clinton launched an unprovoked military assault on a sovereign nation coincidentally with the release of evidence involving him as a key player in release of classified material to the Chinese Communists. Is that wag the dog, or what?

2. That the president has no constitutional authority to declare war; yet he did it anyway.

3. That this nation is becoming hopelessly entangled militarily with other nations to the point of a dangerous loss of sovereignty.

4. That an already short supply of munitions is being spent, inhibiting our defense capabilities.

5. That United States taxpayers will likely be forced to reconstruct vast areas of Kosovo now being destroyed by our military.

6. That this military assault is almost entirely at the expense of our personnel, our weapons and our money.

7. That a derelict Congress sits idly by while a renegade president runs roughshod over sovereign nations of the world.

Isn't it time to cull these derelict members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats?

James F. Stanbrough
Northglenn

■

What rights has a nation of moral adaptability?

When a nation has taught its children that morality is not "carved in stone," does that nation still have the right to be shocked when one of its students walks into his school and casually kills his teachers and classmates?

When a nation has taught its children that morality is not "carved in stone," does that nation still have the right to be enraged when one of its citizens, because of the color of his skin, is mercilessly dragged to his death?

When a nation has taught its children that morality is not "carved in stone," does that nation still have the right to be mournful when a well-known abortion-provider is murdered in his own home?

When a nation has taught its children that morality is not "carved in stone," does that nation still have the right to be horrified when one of its young men is tortured and left to die on a fence in Wyoming?

When a nation has demanded that its children must learn to play in a garden of moral adaptability, does that nation still have the right to suddenly introduce any unwavering rule of conscience, behavior or belief?

Terry Hodson
Golden

■

Louisville needs board to advise on open space

As a Louisville resident, I strongly support the protection of our open spaces and wildlife against development. Louisville residents have wisely chosen to approve a tax for open space purchases, and the city has done a good job of acquiring open space in and around Louisville.

I am concerned, however, that our precious open space may not be managed and protected effectively for the future. Our city government does not currently have any staff members with appropriate training to manage natural ecosystems and there are no regular meetings for citizens to address their questions and concerns about open space. Will our open space eventually be turned into ball fields, golf courses and recreation trails? In my opinion, the true value of open space is as habitat for our vanishing wildlife.

The Louisville City Council will soon be presented with a proposal to create a board that would advise the council on open space issues. We need such a board, not temporary committees that are disbanded after a short period. I hope the council will approve this proposal.

Chip Heldman
Louisville

■

Dictators keep control by controlling the guns

Mayor Wellington Webb and others who are working so hard to keep guns out of the hands of the ordinary citizens must have missed the news out of Kosovo. Why was it so easy for Slobodan Milosevic and his Serbian forces to move the Kosovar people out of their homes? They were unarmed civilians.

Most of the people in Europe have never had guns. Under the Austrian Empire only the ruling group had guns; under the communists, only the army had guns. In Cuba, only the army has guns; in China, only the army has guns. If anyone wonders why the people put up with dictators, there is a very good reason: Only the dictator and his army have weapons.

Criminals will always have guns because they do not pay attention to the law. With the proper training and controls on who can get a license to carry a gun, there should be no more problems than licensing drivers. There are many people killed by bad drivers, but should we ban all driving because someone steals a car and kills another person while breaking the law?

Pat Allen
Lakewood

■

Support moral courage

I am appalled at the reception Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji received on his recent visit to Denver. We are bombing Yugoslavia because of ethnic cleansing, but we invite and court a mass murder? What is the difference? Is money the only motivator we have? Imagine children murdered because they were the second child; imagine your freedom of speech suppressed.

I feel a sense of rage when I think of the royal treatment this man received. What kind of message does that send: A dictator may ignore human rights, but if there is trade involved, that's OK?

I urge all voters to support leaders who have the moral courage to stand up for what is morally correct, not just politically correct.

Susan L. Fincke
Littleton

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Denver
Rocky Mountain News

Pumpkins back with power

By Michael Mehle

News Popular Music Writer

Cram an arena act back inside a theater, and you're guaranteed electricity, energy and a scalper's paradise. Such was the case Monday, when some fans paid as much as $200 to see the Smashing Pumpkins try to peel the paint off of the Ogden Theatre.

SMASHING PUMPKINS

Grade: B+

When and Where : Monday night, Ogden Theatre.

Those who came to hear the hits didn't get their money's worth. But those who came for fresh evidence that the band intends to rock hard in the next millennium got a bargain.

The Pumpkins shied away from most of its radio-friendly fare and instead devoted the bulk of the night breaking in new songs that the sold-out crowd heard for the first time. Part of a low-key, two-week tour, the theater show was also the first to reunite Jimmy Chamberlin with his band mates after a three-year hiatus. The drummer was booted from the band in 1996 after a drug episode in which the group's touring keyboardist died of an overdose.

With Chamberlin back behind the drums, the Pumpkins issued ample proof that its next album (due in September) won't follow the same sort of Pumpkin-lite approach of 1998's soft-selling *Adore*.

The band began by going back to its debut disc, *Gish*, and the racing thrash of *I Am One*. But after a string of older songs (*Zero, La Dolly Vita*) Billy Corgan led his crew and the audience into the unfamiliar. The new songs rattled with old muscle. Chamberlin provided the thundering rhythms, while Corgan and James Iha teamed on a two-guitar attack that echoed the more bombastic maelstrom of the band's past. New songs such as *Glass' Theme*, *Wound* and *Virex* bounced between thrashing punk, pop grunge and caustic metal.

Corgan, whose black outfit looked like equal parts pants suit, nehru jacket and evening dress, showed his soft side with the acoustic-leaning *If There Is a God* and *With Every Light*. The Pumpkins did offer one hit, a rougher version of *Today* played at the end of its last set and before a long series of encores.

The good news for fans is that the band mates appear to be getting along, and they avoided their usual on-stage bickering. Indeed, there was little said throughout the two-hour show. Corgan addressed the return of his drummer only once, as fans chanted "Jimmy" and the front man welcomed the crowd to its "reunion tour."

He then introduced another new song — an explosive, galloping salvo — as the "song that ultimately proved that Jimmy was the right drummer for us."

"It was with this song that he passed his audition," Corgan said.

The tour is an audition of sorts for the rest of the Pumpkins, who must prove they still have the brawn to rock full-throttle. On Monday, the band passed.

NORM!

TALK OF THE TOWN

Norm Clarke

Czech entrepreneur **Victor Kozeny**, near the peak of Aspen's super rich, is making headlines again — this time for something other than his legendary extravagence.

Seems Kozeny, who owns a $20 million home atop Aspen's Red Mountain, lured former U.S. Sen. **George Mitchell**, and other high-powered U.S. investors, into a deal that may have lost almost half a billion dollars.

According to London's *Sunday Times*, Kozeny pulled Mitchell and the others into a deal that was to have returned 50 to 100 times their investment from the privatization of nationalized industries in the former Soviet repubic of Azerbaijan.

But the scheme didn't set well with the Azerbaijan government. A similar profiteering ploy made $500 million for Kozeny in the Czech Republic in the early 1990s, but this one went sour.

Kozeny isn't showing any great remorse over the deal gone bad for the American investors, who include **President Clinton's** pal and realty magnate **Richard Friedman** and hedge-fund icon **Leon Cooperman**.

"They are all big boys who are worth a great deal of money," Kozeny told the *Sunday Times*. "I told them I was happy to take them along but I'm not going to be their pyschiatrist. If they can't handle the heat, they should stay out of the kitchen."

Kozeny's Aspen bashes are over the top. A guest at his 1997 New Year's Eve party told me Kozeny bragged of spending $450,000 alone on liquor. Mitchell attended one of his 1997 holiday parties, which featured **Natalie Cole** performing live.

The Scene and Heard — The University of Wyoming on Tuesday confirmed negotiations for an **Elton John** concert to honor hate victim **Matthew Shepard** have been in progress but remain "very much in the preliminary stages." **Joe Dowler**, arena manager at the school, said, "We'll up our efforts to get this done." John was to have announced details of a June 1 concert, and an Oct. 12 event in Denver, on Tuesday in Laramie, according to **Jerry Switzer**, executive vice president of the International Hate & Violence Education Foundation. But the information released was done by "someone not familiar with policies and procedure," said **Lee Thompson**, executive chair of the Seattle-based IHAVE foundation. No announcement is forthcoming until John's representatives have cleared it, Thompson said. . . . Big doings tonight at Cherry Creek shopping center for the National Conference of Black Mayors. About 1,000 people, including 300 mayors, are expected for the reception, which features the sounds of The Gap Band and **Hazel Miller**. Mayors **Patsy Jo Hilliard** of East Point, Ga., **Wellington Webb** and former Seattle mayor **Norm Rice** won't need any conversational icebreakers. All three graduated from Denver's Manual High School. After the reception the party moves to Pierre's Supper Club.

The Punch Line — Blast from the past: "The next time I send a dope, I'll go myself." — Film director **Michael Curtiz**, to an assistant who had returned with the wrong prop.

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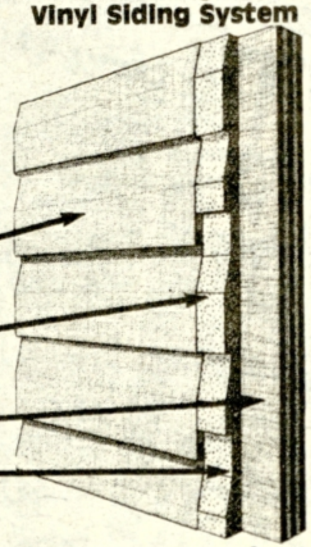

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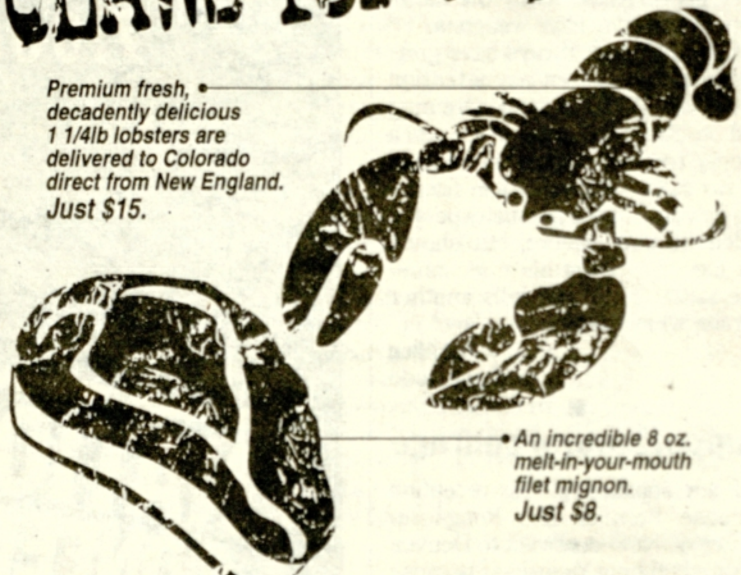

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TRAGEDY AT COLUMBINE

SCHOOL from **2A**

targeted athletes.

"They said 'All the jocks stand up. We're going to kill every single one of you,' " said Aaron Cohn, who hid under a table.

Cohn said he heard one gunman say "peekaboo," then shoot someone hiding under a table.

"They laughed," Cohn said. "They were just hooting and hollering. Having the time of their life."

Authorities late Tuesday knew of no motive for the rampage.

"It appears to be a suicide mission," Stone said.

President Clinton asked the nation to pray.

"If it can happen here, then surely people will recognize that they have to be alive to the possibility that it can occur in any community in America and maybe that will help us to keep it from happening again," Clinton said. "Tonight, I think the American people ought to be thinking about those folks in Littleton."

Gov. Bill Owens met with grieving parents. "It was tough," Owens said afterward. "Some of them have found their children and some have not.

"It's a Colorado tragedy."

It was a day when gunfire and explosions turned the neighborhood of upper-middle class homes and wide, quiet streets inside out. A day when the school's library and cafeteria became smoke-filled battlefields, and bathrooms and heating vents became havens.

And it took everyone at the school, save at least two, completely by surprise.

Some initially thought that all the noise was a senior prank, others a science experiment.

"I was upstairs in the tech lab when I heard what I thought was hammering," teacher Kevin Tucker said. "I wondered: Who's hammering during class?"

Within seconds, hundreds of students and teachers poured out of the school, running to safety in nearby Clement Park, behind cars and in neighboring homes.

All was chaos. Helicopter ambulances landed on a sports field. Paramedics treated victims on the lawn. The gunmen exchanged fire with two deputies. Terrified parents rushed to the scene, abandoning cars in the middle of the street, squeezing under fences to get to their children.

Hundreds of students and teachers were trapped in the school for hours, hiding and praying.

"I was so scared I didn't know what to do," said Jill Shakowski, a sophomore who hid on top of a toilet in a stall.

Sophomore Amanda Stair was in the library when she heard a commotion in the hall.

"We hid under different tables," Stair said. "Two guys in black trench coats walked in. They said get up or they would shoot us. I heard a lot of shots and one guy put his gun down on the desk I was under."

The fire alarm went off and a gunman shot it. The library reeked of gunpowder. Students cried and screamed.

The gunmen said they shouldn't.

"Don't worry," one said. "You're going to be dead in a few minutes."

They lived, spared when the assailants left for the cafeteria.

Sophomore Jenny Matthews, 16, and her friend Brian Anderson were walking in a hall when they heard shots. Anderson recognized one of the boys with a gun.

A paint gun, he thought. Anderson approached and the gunman turned and shot Anderson twice in the chest. He lived.

Matthews and several other students ran down the hall. A teacher yelled for the kids to get out of the building. Then the teacher stopped to call police. She was shot twice in the head.

It was a day full of luck, good and bad.

For Melynda Bae, the difference between life and death was a matter of inches. Bae, a sophomore, was standing in the commons area next to another girl when she saw the gunmen through a large window.

They lowered their shotguns at them and fired, blowing out the glass. Bae and the other girl ran, side by side, past a series of windows that shattered one after another with a deafening roar.

Suddenly, the other girl wasn't running with her anymore.

"I saw her fall down," Bae said. "Blood was everywhere. It was just terrible."

Bae kept running and running. Later, it all caught up with her.

"Why didn't I stop to help that girl?" she asked herself. "I'm so mad," she said quietly. "I was so selfish."

She wasn't, of course. And neither was Dave Sanders, the girls basketball coach who ran through the school warning students, showing them the way out.

Suddenly, a gunman appeared and shot Sanders once in each shoulder.

He staggered to a classroom. Inside, about 20 students were hiding. Some removed their shirts to make a pillow for him. Kent Friesen, a science teacher, asked if anyone knew first aid. Aaron Hancey, a junior and an Eagle Scout, stepped forward.

Hancey covered Sanders with wool blankets. For more than three hours, he and Columbine sophomore Kevin Starkey took turns applying pressure to Sanders' wounds.

So many police agencies responded to the scene that the surrounding streets were blocked three and four deep by squad cars, trucks, even an armored personnel carrier.

Officers searching the school room by room began bringing out kids who were left behind after 2:45 p.m. One group after another, students streamed out, hands above their heads. When they got to safety, they were frisked.

Police turned nearby Leawood Elementary into a center for parents desperate for news of their children. Busloads of students began arriving there, and parents rushed forward to embrace them.

Then a terrible pall fell over the rest when they realized their children were not on board.

The Columbine massacre is the latest in a string of school shootings across the nation since 1997 that have led to calls for tighter security. Twelve died in those shootings — perhaps half the toll at Columbine Tuesday.

"This kind of thing is always in the back of your mind, but you never think it can happen," Tucker, the teacher, said. "I guess it can happen anywhere."

CONTRIBUTORS

Contributing to this report were: Karen Abbott, Charley Able, John Accola, Tustin Amole, Mike Anton, Lynn Bartels, Suzanne Brown, Ann Carnahan, Norm Clarke, Michele Conklin, Carla Crowder, John Ensslin, Kevin Flynn, Tillie Fong, Dick Foster, Joe Garner, Gary Gerhardt, Manny Gonzales, Shelley Gonzales, Tina Griego, Hector Gutierrez, Angel Hernandez, Burt Hubbard, Ann Imse, Rebecca Jones, Lou Kilzer, Sue Lindsay, Dan Luzadder, Gary Massaro, Berny Morson, Mike Patty, Michael Romano, Michael Rudeen, Lisa Levitt Ryckman, John Sanko, Bill Scanlon, Janet Simon, M.E. Sprengelmeyer, Scott Stocker, Lori Tobias, Kevin Vaughan, Jean Torkelson, Brian Weber, Randy Lynch, April Washington, Mary Winter and Mark Wolf.

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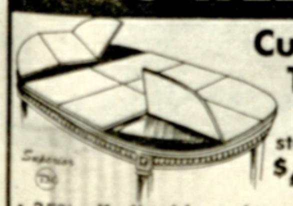

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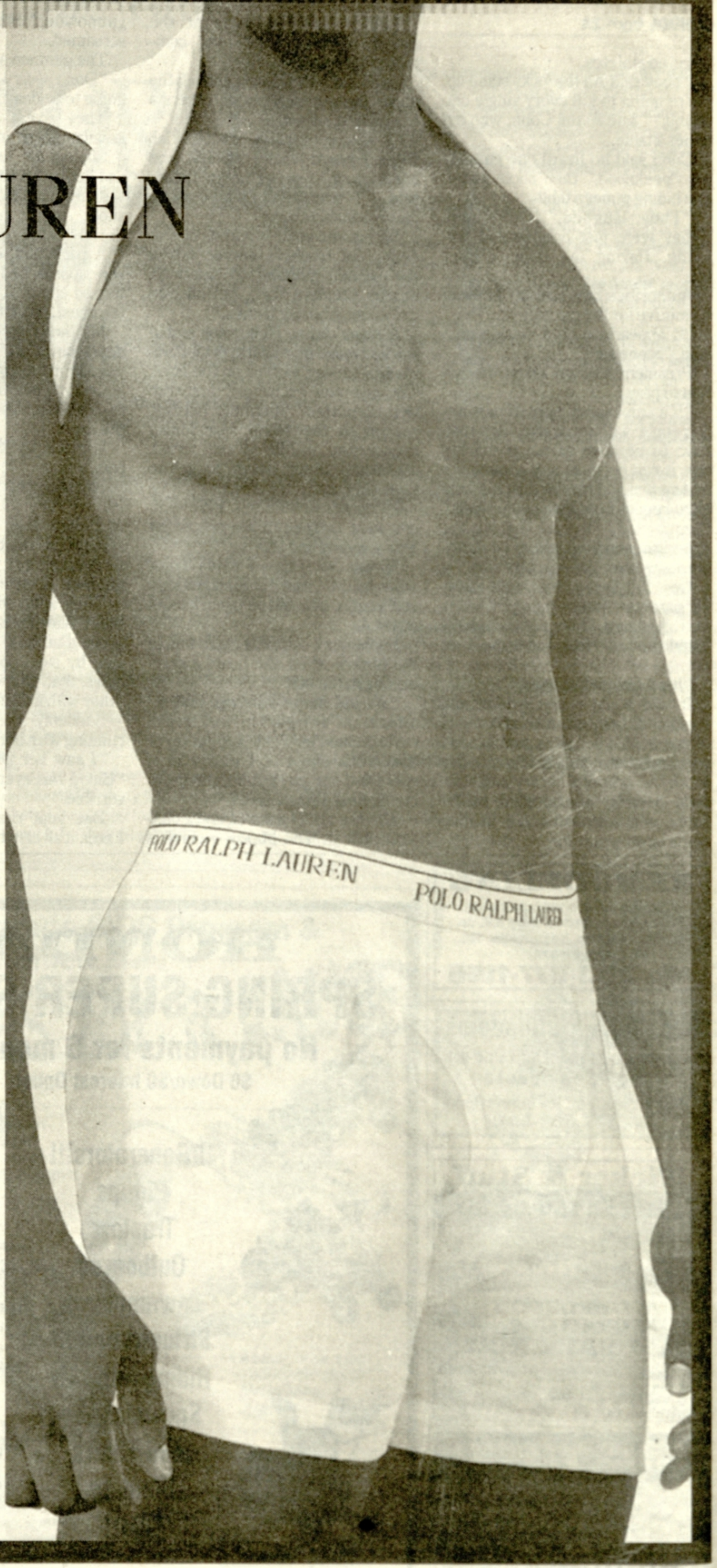

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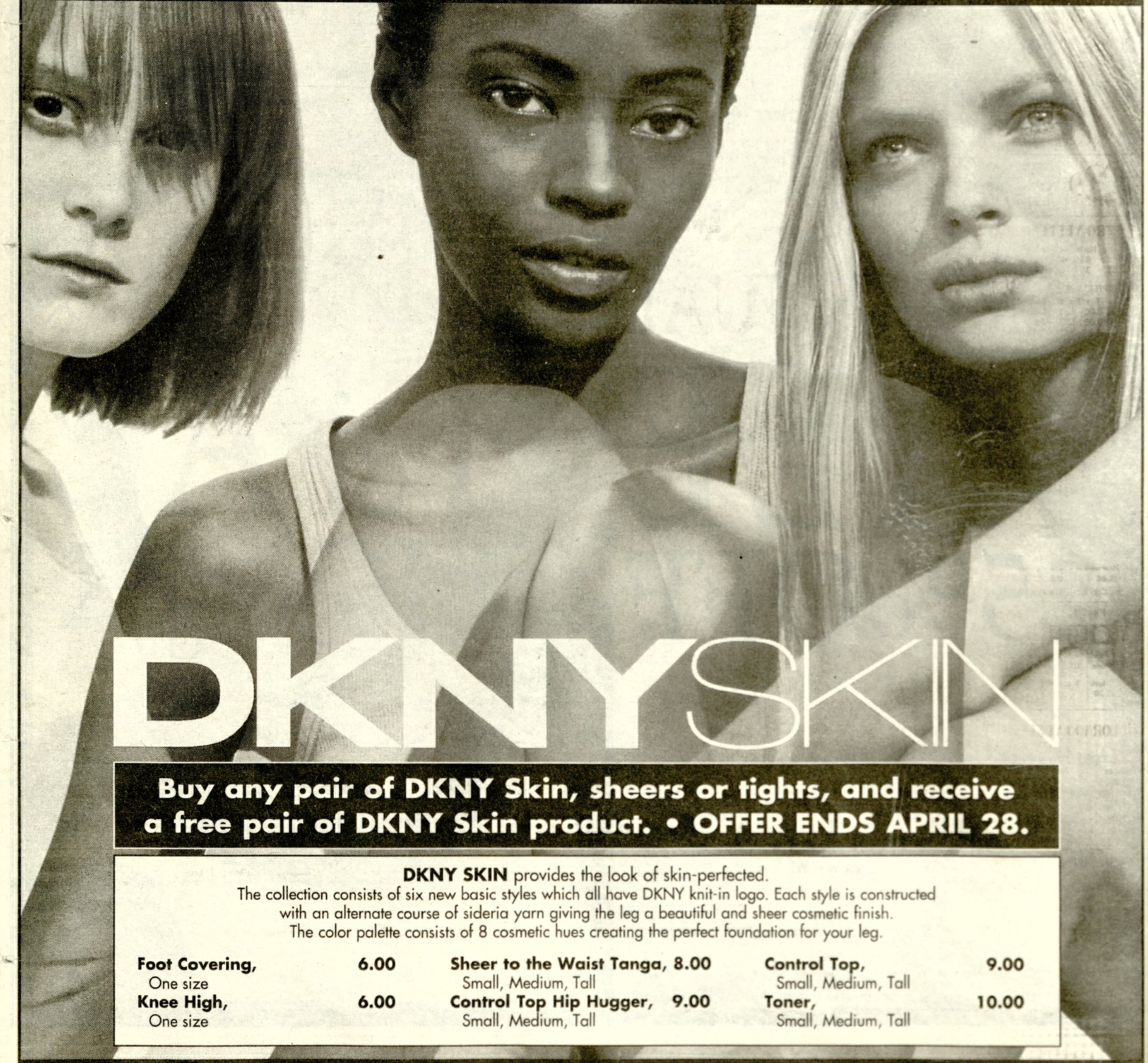

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FORECASTS, MAPS AND GRAPHICS BY WEATHER CENTRAL, MADISON, WISC.

METRO FORECAST

TODAY
Showers
mid-50s/mid-30s

THURSDAY
Showers
mid-40s/low 30s

FRIDAY
Showers
mid-40s/low-30s

SATURDAY
Showers
upper 50s/low 30s

SUNDAY
Partly sunny
low 60s/mid-30s.

METRO YESTERDAY

	Temp	Norm	Rec	Year
HI	71	63	83	1989
LO	43	36	13	1966

HUMIDITY

High Yesterday	58%
Low Yesterday	19%

PRECIPITATION

	Tue	Month	Year
TOTAL	0.00	1.21	1.93
NORM	0.06	1.03	3.33
DIFF.	-0.06	0.18	-1.40

TOMORROW

Sunrise	6:13 a.m.
Sunset	7:45 p.m.
Moonrise	12:10 p.m.
Moonset	1:56 a.m.

Source: National Weather Service at DIA, through 8 p.m.

POLLUTION INDEX

Yesterday's max until 4 p.m. Good 0-50, Fair 51-100, Poor 101-200, Extremely poor 200+

	OZONE	*PART.		OZONE	*PART.
Arvada	37	—	Denver*	—	36
Boulder	n/a	—	Golden	n/a	—
Chatfield Res.	n/a	—	Littleton	41	—
Comm. City	30	20	Eldorado Sprgs	37	—

* 21ST ST. AND BROADWAY
* PARTICULATES

VISIBILITY STANDARD INDEX

Good	Fair	Poor	Bad
0-50	51-100	101-200	200+
not available			

POLLEN COUNT

CLADOSPORIUM-101	LOW	COTTONWOOD-41	MOD
SMUTS-86	LOW	ALTERNARIA-16	LOW

Source: Colorado Allergy & Asthma Society

MOON PHASES

First 1/4	Full moon	Last 1/4	New moon
April 22	April 30	May 8	May 15

AIR QUALITY

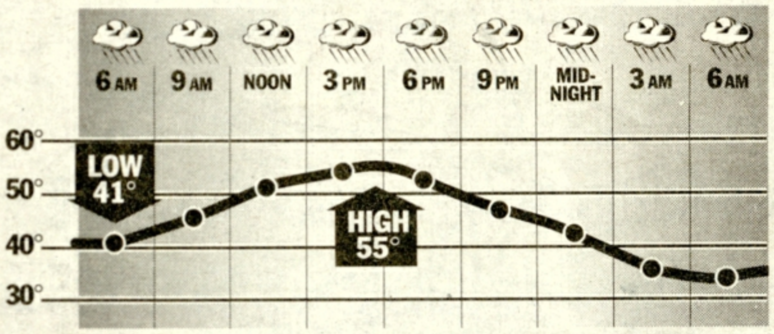
GOOD Outlook for Metro Denver air today.

Air Pollution Control bulletin 782-0211

COLORADO YESTERDAY

CITY	Hi/Lo/Prc	CITY	Hi/Lo/Prc
Akron	75/41/0	Greeley	73/46/0
Alamosa	70/24/0	Gunnison	64/21/0
Aspen	64/30/0	Hayden	57/46/0
C. Springs	71/45/0	La Junta	80/40/0
Craig	62/42/0	Lamar	82/39/0
Denver	71/44/0	Leadville	51/27/0
Dillon	59/23/0	Limon	75/35/0
Durango	71/23/na	Montrose	75/41/0
Eagle	64/34/na	Pueblo	81/35/0
Estes Park	61/38/0	Rifle	72/40/0
Fort Collins	68/43/0	Salida	73/31/0
Fraser	57/22/0	Telluride	na/na/na
G. Springs	73/37/0	Trinidad	81/41/0
Gr. Junction	75/49/0		

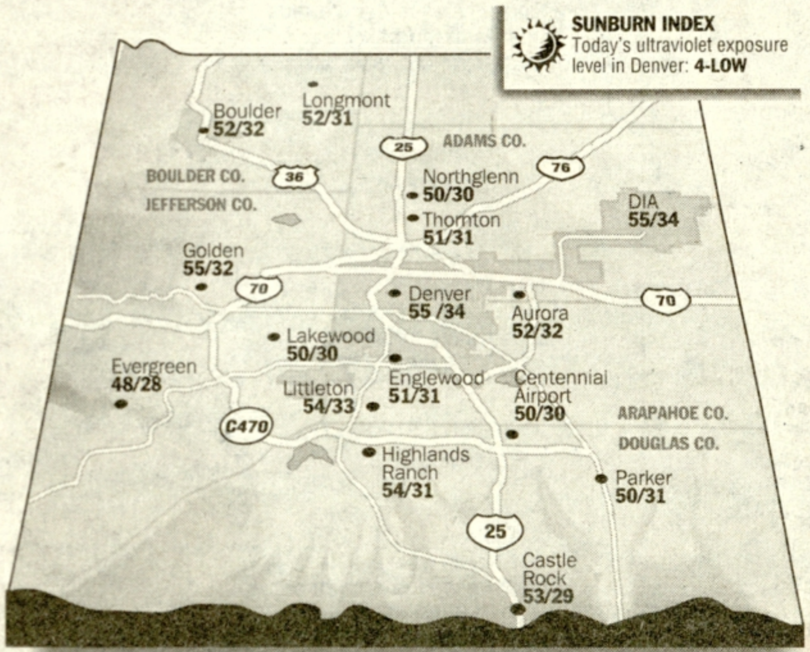
24-HR METRO FORECAST



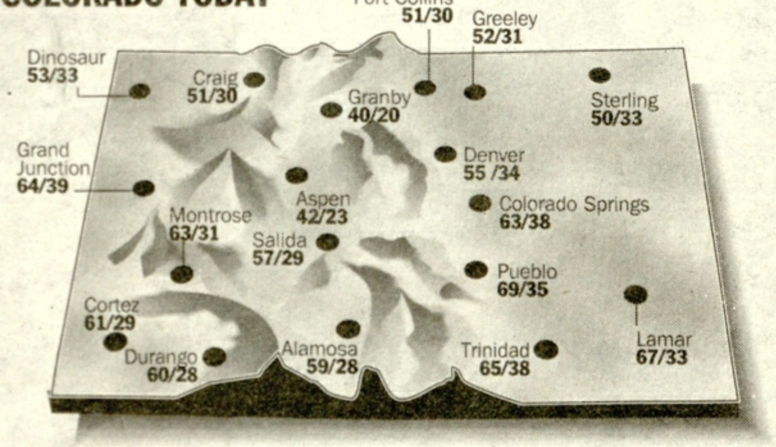
METRO DENVER TODAY

Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. The high will be 55 with a north wind at 10 to 20 mph. Skies will be cloudy with a chance of showers overnight. The overnight low will be 34.

SUNBURN INDEX
Today's ultraviolet exposure level in Denver: **4-LOW**



COLORADO TODAY



COLORADO Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. Highs 40-69, lows 18-39.
KANSAS Cloudy, chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs 58-78, lows 38-58.
NEBRASKA Cloudy, chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs 55-72, lows 38-52.
NEW MEXICO Skies will be partly sunny. Highs 60-95, lows 24-54.
UTAH Chance of mountain snow and valley rain. Highs 48-70, lows 25-45.
WYOMING Cloudy with periods of rain and snow. Highs 25-50, lows 20-35.

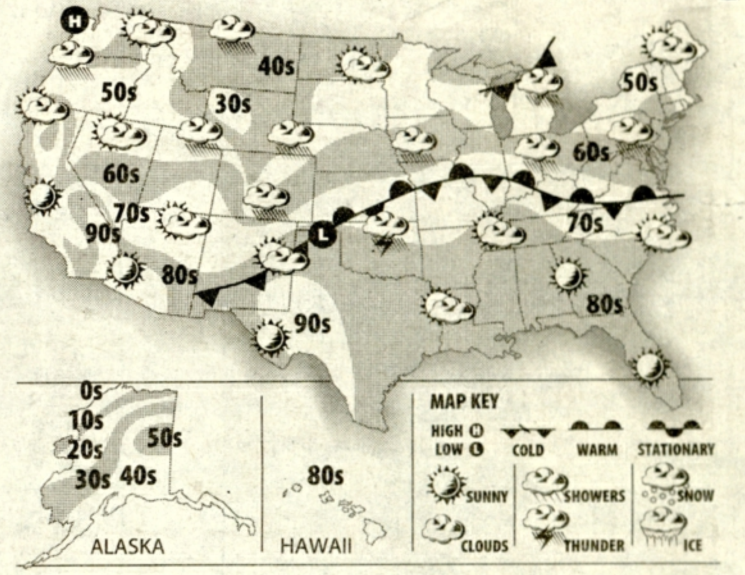
WINDOW ON THE WEATHER

Colorado's latest weather change is going to ease into the state rather than slam us this time. Cooler air has been oozing into northeastern Colorado from the Dakotas, and moisture has been spilling into the state from the northwest. Neither of these systems has been too well organized, but they will pick up some strength today. Snow is still possible with this slow-moving weather pattern. Night and early mornings through Saturday are the best times for snow. Sprinkler systems will not be in any danger, as temperatures should not drop very far into the 20s.

Larry Green,
Colorado's weatherman

NEWS4
Spirit of Colorado

THE NATION TODAY



U.S. CITIES

KEY TO CONDITIONS: c=cloudy, dr=drizzle, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hazy, i=ice, pc=partly cloudy, r=rain, rs=rain/snow, s=sunny, sh=showers, sn=snow, sf=snow flurries, ts=thunderstorms, w=windy.

	Yesterday Hi/Lo/Prc	Today Hi/Lo/Otlk	Tomorrow Hi/Lo/Otlk
Albany	56/33/0	60/44/pc	64/48/sh
Albuquerque	81/47/0	78/45/pc	67/38/pc
Amarillo	88/47/0	84/49/pc	82/42/ts
Anchorage	49/35/0	48/38/c	47/33/c
Asheville	71/47/.02	78/52/s	81/56/pc
Atlanta	78/54/.06	84/58/s	84/61/s
Atlantic City	58/38/.10	61/49/sh	69/53/pc
Austin	85/63/0	87/67/pc	88/65/ts
Baltimore	57/43/.02	63/51/sh	74/53/pc
Billings	55/45/.06	46/34/sh	44/37/c
Birmingham	83/60/0	83/59/s	83/61/s
Bismarck	62/39/.01	50/33/pc	48/31/s
Boise	62/44/.04	59/33/sh	60/34/c
Boston	58/44/.03	57/45/pc	61/48/sh
Brownsville	83/67/0	87/72/pc	90/75/pc
Buffalo	53/33/0	58/44/c	60/46/sh
Burlington, Vt	57/39/0	56/42/pc	58/46/sh
Casper	67/41/0	48/28/w	46/27/rs
Charleston, SC	82/51/.59	83/64/s	86/63/pc
Charleston, WV	64/42/.22	74/55/pc	80/56/pc
Charlotte	79/51/0	79/56/s	82/58/pc
Cheyenne	63/42/0	48/30/sh	40/27/sh
Chicago	56/33/.21	60/48/sh	59/46/sh
Cincinnati	63/40/0	71/55/sh	74/53/pc
Cleveland	52/41/.08	60/49/sh	68/47/sh
Columbia, SC	82/51/0	83/58/s	88/60/pc
Columbus, Oh	58/38/.05	65/54/sh	70/52/pc
Concord, NH	58/36/.38	57/40/pc	61/45/sh
Dallas/Ft. Wth.	83/64/0	82/66/pc	86/61/ts
Des Moines	70/43/0	69/50/sh	64/45/sh
Detroit	55/42/.10	59/49/sh	64/46/sh
Duluth	51/28/.01	46/33/pc	49/28/c
El Paso	88/50/0	88/60/pc	82/44/s
Evansville	67/37/0	77/59/ts	77/54/w
Fairbanks	62/41/0	55/32/c	41/24/c
Fargo	51/40/.07	50/35/pc	48/32/c
Flagstaff	68/31/0	62/31/pc	56/29/pc
Ft. Myers	82/54/0	85/66/s	87/68/pc
Grand Rapids	55/30/0	57/46/sh	61/40/w
Great Falls	59/42/0	48/31/sh	52/36/c
Greensboro	75/49/0	77/56/pc	83/57/pc
Hartford	55/38/0	62/42/pc	64/47/sh
Helena	58/48/0	48/34/sh	52/35/sh
Honolulu	81/73/.02	82/68/s	82/69/s
Houston	86/64/0	83/71/pc	83/70/s
Indianapolis	62/41/0	70/52/sh	72/51/pc
Jackson, Ms	84/61/0	84/60/s	85/61/ts
Jackson, Wy	46/34/.01	37/25/rs	40/23/rs
Jacksonville	84/45/0	83/60/s	84/66/pc
Juneau	46/41/.28	48/35/c	47/38/r
Kansas City	78/45/0	76/54/ts	68/45/r
Las Vegas	89/65/0	88/61/s	80/55/s
Little Rock	86/48/0	80/63/pc	75/60/ts
Los Angeles	71/57/0	79/58/s	80/59/s
Louisville	69/41/.02	77/58/ts	74/55/pc
Lubbock	92/53/0	89/52/s	85/46/ts
Memphis	83/54/0	82/66/s	85/62/pc
Miami Beach	81/64/0	83/68/s	84/75/pc
Milwaukee	53/30/.06	57/44/c	55/43/sh
Mpls St Paul	49/34/.19	57/42/pc	54/37/sh
Nashville	76/51/.01	83/60/s	82/61/s
New Orleans	82/61/0	82/63/s	84/67/ts
New York City	51/46/.19	62/49/c	67/53/sh
Norfolk, Va	72/48/0	69/58/pc	80/60/pc
North Platte	77/43/0	56/45/sh	53/30/rs
Oklahoma City	84/53/0	83/60/ts	76/53/w
Omaha	76/49/.03	67/48/sh	64/44/sh
Orlando	81/50/0	85/63/s	87/66/pc
Palm Springs	97/66/0	93/61/s	98/58/s
Philadelphia	53/45/.05	62/49/sh	71/53/pc
Phoenix	96/68/0	94/62/s	88/60/s
Pittsburgh	51/41/.32	62/49/sh	72/51/pc
Portland, Me	58/41/0	56/42/pc	58/45/sh
Portland, Or	56/47/.05	57/43/sh	67/47/s
Providence	56/42/0	61/43/pc	62/48/sh
Raleigh	76/52/0	77/58/pc	85/59/pc
Rapid City	66/42/.01	51/36/sh	48/30/sh
Reno	71/50/0	61/36/pc	60/34/pc
Richmond	70/48/.02	69/55/pc	77/58/pc
Sacramento	77/49/0	82/48/s	81/53/s
St. Louis	73/46/0	78/60/ts	77/51/sh
Salt Lake City	58/49/.26	54/36/sh	51/37/c
San Antonio	86/63/0	87/68/s	91/63/ts
San Diego	67/59/0	70/57/s	71/59/s
San Francisco	60/49/0	62/48/s	65/49/s
San Jose	66/52/0	70/47/s	75/52/s
San Juan PR	89/74/.07	86/72/pc	87/74/pc
Santa Fe	76/33/0	69/37/c	66/30/r
Seattle	52/43/.04	55/42/pc	60/45/s
Shreveport	82/62/0	86/67/pc	85/63/w
Sioux Falls	72/43/0	59/40/sh	58/30/rs
Spokane	54/39/.03	53/33/pc	57/39/s
St Ste Marie	52/29/0	49/35/sh	54/36/pc
Syracuse	56/33/0	59/44/c	62/46/sh
Tampa	77/54/0	84/63/s	86/65/pc
Topeka	80/44/0	76/55/ts	71/43/r
Tucson	92/57/0	91/56/s	85/54/pc
Tulsa	85/54/0	82/69/ts	74/54/ts
Washington	59/49/.03	66/53/sh	76/56/pc
Wichita	82/50/0	77/55/sh	69/47/r
Wilkes-Barre	50/34/.30	61/45/c	64/50/w
Wilmington, De	54/43/.04	62/48/sh	69/52/w

WORLD CITIES

	Hi/Lo/Otlk		Hi/Lo/Otlk		Hi/Lo/Otlk		Hi/Lo/Otlk
Acapulco	89/71/pc	Cairo	76/64/s	Lisbon	68/54/pc	Riyadh	95/79/s
Amsterdam	51/39/sh	Calgary	50/34/sh	London	51/42/sh	Rome	72/50/pc
Athens	73/56/pc	Caracas	85/68/pc	Madrid	62/45/pc	St. Petersburg	68/48/pc
Auckland	64/57/pc	Copnhagn	47/35/pc	Manila	88/76/ts	Sao Paulo	84/59/ts
B'Aires	74/52/pc	Dublin	48/41/sh	Mazatlan	82/63/s	Seoul	66/49/pc
Bangkok	93/76/ts	Frankfurt	57/38/sh	Mexico City	83/54/pc	Shanghai	64/55/r
Barbados	86/75/pc	Geneva	57/40/sh	Montreal	56/37/pc	Singapore	86/78/ts
Barcelona	67/53/pc	Guadalajara	82/54/pc	Moscow	67/47/pc	Stockholm	53/34/c
Beijing	62/51/sh	Havana	79/67/pc	Nairobi	84/59/pc	Sydney	69/57/pc
Beirut	74/63/s	Helsinki	63/45/pc	Nassau	81/69/ts	Tel Aviv	84/60/s
Belgrade	58/42/c	Hong Kong	82/71/ts	New Delhi	102/69/s	Tokyo	63/51/pc
Berlin	56/37/sh	Istanbul	65/49/pc	Oslo	45/33/pc	Toronto	59/36/pc
Bermuda	73/61/sh	J'Burg	76/59/pc	Panama City	92/76/ts	Vancouver	54/37/pc
Bogota	68/50/ts	Jerusalem	78/55/s	Paris	54/41/sh	Vienna	55/40/c
Brussels	53/40/sh	Kiev	58/39/pc	Prague	57/39/sh	Warsaw	47/34/sh
Budapest	54/39/c	Kingston	84/75/sh	Rio	81/72/ts	Zurich	56/40/sh

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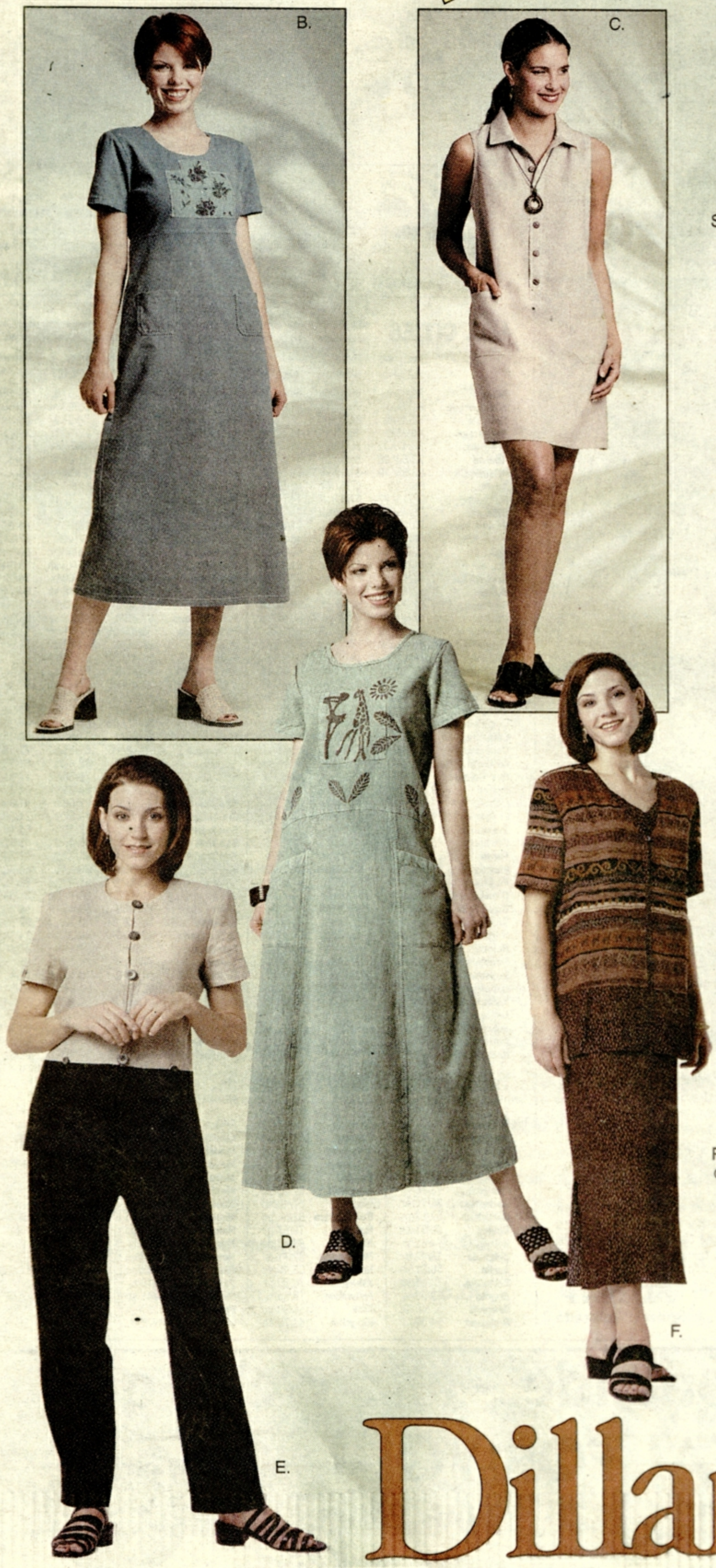
TROPICAL

Rhythm



A. TWO-PIECE DRESSING

$80

St. Tropez® sleeveless 2-piece dress with long skirt and border Taj Mahal print. In red. Misses.

B. GARMENT-DYED KNIT DRESS

$70

Nina Piccalino® empire cotton/blend long dress with floral patch. In emerald. Misses.

C. SHORT SUMMER DRESSES

$60

John Robert®s sleeveless short dress with attached necklace and buttons. In natural. Misses.

D. WASHED LINEN DRESSING

$70

Countrywear® giraffe stamp print long dress with pouch pockets. In olive. Misses.

E. CASUAL PANTSETS

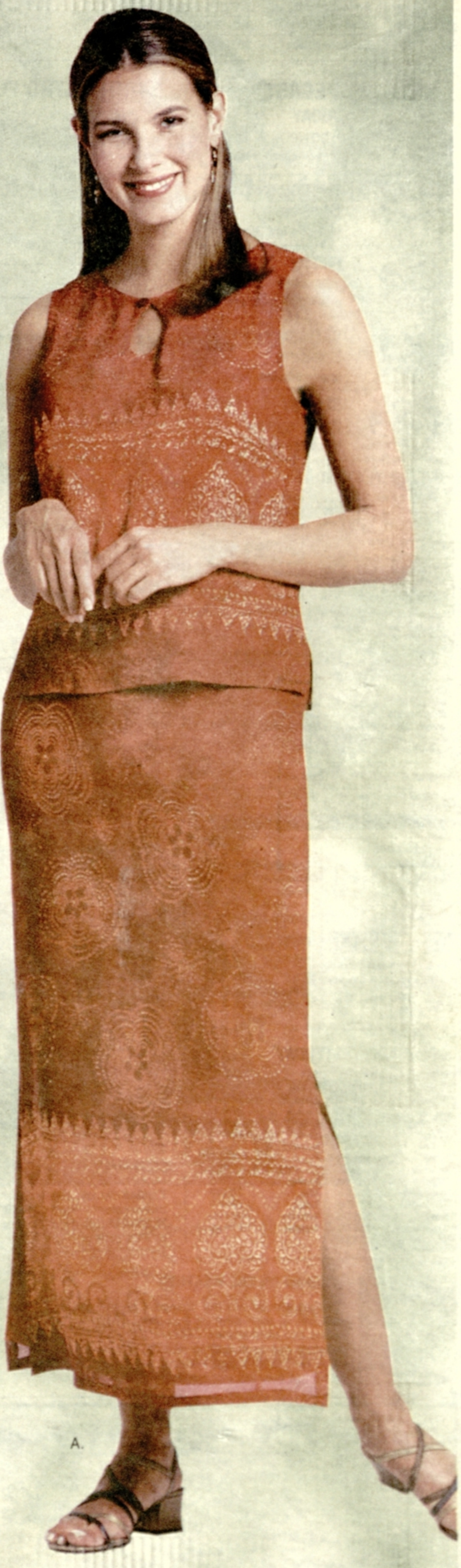
$80

John Roberts® natural/black button-front tunic with pant. Misses. Also available in Women's World, **90.00.**

F. JACKET DRESSES

$90

Rabbit® one-button print jacket over printed sleeveless dress. In cinnamon. Misses and Petites. Also available in Women's World, **100.00.**



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